



Reformation Lutheran Church

“Come and See, Learn and Rejoice, Go and Tell!”
November 2023

Revelation 7: (2-8) 9-17 The vision given to John is one of the saints from all nations gathered around the throne of the Lamb of God. The servants of God were to be sealed on their foreheads before they gathered around the throne. They were dressed in white and sang praises to God as the angels stood at attention. The good news for all who heard this message was that there would come a time when there will be no more hunger or thirst; a time when God promised to wipe away every tear.

• What consolation does this passage give you as you think about life, death, the loss of loved ones, and your own future with Christ? • In what sense is this prophetic picture already true among us as we gather together to worship God? How have we already been “washed white” by the blood of the Lamb? The words of praise found in verse 7:12 (and other places in Revelation) are echoed in the traditional doxology at the end of the Lord’s Prayer: “For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.” • What does “forever and ever” mean to you? Why is this central to our understanding of God and the promise he has made to us? • Why is All Saints Sunday such an important day in the life of the church? What hope does it bring to the worshipping community and to individual people?

Pr.

“And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” Colossians 3:17

Happy November! I love Fall! I like to think that we slow down a bit with the cooler weather and take in the sights, sounds and smells of Fall in all its glory. But what really happens? If you’ve been out anywhere recently, stores are getting stocked with Christmas decorations. Commercials are already starting to advertise the latest, greatest of gifts to be had. A local radio station is already playing Christmas music! It seems Thanksgiving gets relegated to one day. As Christians, we know better. We have so, so much to be thankful for every day. Let’s take time each day to notice God’s many blessings. Also, let’s SHARE things we’re thankful for each Sunday! Sometimes we’re hesitant to speak out for whatever reason. Maybe we’ve been praying for a difficult situation to change, maybe healing, good news, peace, – whatever – large or small. As God is working in that situation, let’s share that news and we can all praise and thank Him together! I know I am very THANKFUL for each and every one of you and our church! Peace be with you, Gabi



Happy Belated October 17th – Teresa Donovan

November 1st – Kenneth Ramming

November 19th – Keith Becker

November 22nd – Cheryle Wadsworth

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday – November 5th – Bible Study – 9:30 a.m; Service – 10:30 a.m.

Sunday – November 12th – Bible Study – 9:30 a.m; Service – 10:30 a.m.; Council after service.

Saturday - November 18th – Tentative date to put up the Chrismon tree. (I know – already?! YIKES!)

Sunday – November 19th – Bible Study – 9:30 a.m; Service – 10:30 a.m.

Saturday - November 25th – Clean-up Day – 9:00 a.m. (May reschedule as this is Thanksgiving week.)

Sunday – November 26th – Bible Study – 9:30 a.m; Service – 10:30 a.m. November birthday celebrations after service.

	Nov 5	Nov 12	Nov 19	Nov 26
Altar Guild	Tammy	Amy	Wayne	Carolyn
Usher	Carolyn	Wayne	Junior	Carolyn
Lector	Junior	Amy	Wayne	Chuck
Sermon	Pastor	Chuck	Pastor	Pastor
Thrive	Gabi	Wayne	Gabi	Pastor
Oaks		Chuck		Chuck

Fellowship: Advent season is approaching quickly! (I’m not sure how time is zipping by so fast.....) We’ll have our usual soup and bread meals before 7:00 p.m. service each Wednesday beginning December 6th at 6:00 p.m. A sign-up sheet will be put out closer to time. Our monthly birthday celebrations have been a big hit! We’ll celebrate our November birthdays after service on November 26!

Property: Our November clean-up day will be Saturday, the 25th, 9:00 a.m. Helping hands are always welcome!

Education: Our Sunday Bible classes continue, starting at 9:30 a.m. It is based on the book, The Sword and The Mask – Building an Antifragile Approach to Spiritual Warfare by The Rev. Dr. Jon C. Furgeson. Also, a prerequisite for the class was to read or listen to the YouTube audio of This Present Darkness by Frank Peretti. *“For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness...”* Ephesians 6:12

Worship and Music: A lot of changes are on the horizon. This past Sunday was Reformation Sunday, and this week is All Saints Sunday. Then we have two more Sundays in the season of Trinity, Christ the King Sunday, Thanksgiving and then the start of a new church year and the season of Advent.

Last year we started a new activity for All Saints Sunday where we honored and remembered any family, friends or neighbors who have passed on. We will do that again this year, so if you have anyone you would like to have included, please let me know. Just send me a text or e-mail. (706-464-1142 or pacific6@bellsouth.net)

How many of us really remember the “what does this mean” from our days in catechism class? Here is this month’s review.

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT – You shall not murder.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN – We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.

There is a big issue in today’s political environment that this commandment is very clear about. The living but unborn are persons in the sight of God from the time of conception. Since abortion takes a human life, it is not a moral option except to prevent the death of another person...the mother.

Mission and Ministry: We have a current Thrivent Grant Card project that is helping to stock the shelves with food at FOCUS. More Thrivent Grant Cards are available and once the cards are received, we’ll get busy with the shopping! The holidays will be here before we know it, and now is the perfect time to think of other projects we may do at that time. All thoughts are welcome!

WE CONTINUE OUR STUDY OF LUTHERAN HISTORY WITH “Colleges and Controversy: Augsburg and St. Olaf”

There are two things (among others) that Lutherans seem to enjoy: They are very loyal to their church colleges, and they do relish a good controversy. About 120 years ago, Norwegian Lutherans in the Midwest had the chance to enjoy a great controversy between the supporters of Augsburg College and St. Olaf College. It was such a controversy that it ended up giving birth to an entirely new Lutheran denomination and the division of their relative supporters into two different denominations. First a bit of background about Lutheran colleges, and then to the squabble between the supporters of Augsburg and St. Olaf.

The nineteenth century saw the birth of literally thousands of small, church-related schools, some of which survive to this day as small, liberal arts colleges. Many of these schools originally began as academies, which were really private high schools (as much of public education ended at eighth grade). A few of these academies still exist in their original form, such as Oak Grove Lutheran School in Fargo, North Dakota, and Minnehaha Academy in Minneapolis, Minnesota. As public education expanded in the twentieth century, some of these academies grew into undergraduate colleges while others eventually closed their doors for good. Lutherans founded dozens of such schools in the Midwest, and most of the Lutheran colleges that we have today grew out of such roots. It was a point of pride for Lutheran denominations that they had “their school,” and Lutherans supported them with great enthusiasm-which leads to our controversy.

In the late nineteenth century, there were numbers of distinct Norwegian Lutheran denominations in the United States, as many as five different ones at one time. As the century rolled to an end, great efforts were made to merge these ethnic denominations together, a difficult task made more difficult by

thirty years of theological dispute and also by the issue of schools. In the late 1880s several denominations of Norwegian-American Lutherans were engaged in a merger process that eventually led to the formation of the United Norwegian Lutheran Church (1890-1917). Mergers are difficult things to arrange, and this one was complicated by the question of schools, in this case, Augsburg and St. Olaf. The new denomination had to decide the school issue, especially because it was felt that they could only support one such institution.

On the face of it, the problem seemed manageable. Augsburg was primarily an institution for training Lutheran pastors, while St. Olaf was a liberal arts academy and college which trained students for a wide variety of careers. Simple, it would seem: St. Olaf would be the school of the new denomination, while Augsburg would be its seminary. But things are never as simple as they seem, and deeply felt opinions about the nature of church-related education soon came to the fore, erupting into fierce controversy.

Augsburg College was founded first, in 1869, as an institution for training Lutheran pastors for Norwegian congregations in America. Powered by the educational vision of its two primary leaders, Georg Sverdrup and Sven Oftedal, Augsburg grew into a coordinated, nine-year course of education for young men—academy to college to seminary. St Olaf was founded in 1874 by B. J. Muus and others, first as an academy, then as a college, which was co-educational from the beginning and which sought to prepare young Norwegian-Americans for a variety of positions in the world (including the ministry).

When the United Church was founded in 1890, many saw the academy and college portions of Augsburg as being superfluous, and long-term support for them was ambiguous, at best. Supporters of Augsburg saw church support for St. Olaf as a threat to their vision of a coordinated theological education, and the battle began. In good Lutheran fashion it involved spirited letters and articles in the press, fights in church conventions, secret meetings, and even disputes in the Minnesota legislature and the state courts. As Richard Solberg summarized the debate "Friends of Augsburg assailed St. Olaf for its humanism and rationalism, its 'luxurious facilities,' its doctors of philosophy, its masters of art, and [its] deficits. St. Olaf supporters branded Augsburg as a 'humbug' institution offering piety as a substitute for intellectual rigor and scholarship" (Lutheran Higher Education in America, 232).

As it turned out, in 1893 the supporters of Augsburg formed a group of supportive congregations, the Friends of Augsburg, which eventually became a separate denomination in 1897—the Lutheran Free Church. As a failed attempt to reconcile the Augsburg supporters, St. Olaf was cut free from the United Church in 1893 and led a precarious life until it was reclaimed by the United Church in 1899. Both colleges survive to this day, and their athletic teams compete in the same conference. How many of their fans realize that the roots of rivalry go back to church controversies of the 1890s!

“THIS IS MOST CERTAINLY TRUE”