



REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

WWW.REFLUTHERAN.ORG

(714) 893-5183

FALL 2008

You are a gift

Pastor Russ

For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness (Romans 12:4-8).

You might not know this, but the Holy Spirit loves company. The Spirit not only calls us to faith, but also gathers us together with other people. As members of the church, you are part of the “communion of saints,” the priesthood of all believers.

You might not think of yourself as a priest. But you are. In Baptism, the Spirit makes us children of God and sends us forth with the Word to share with others so that we can comfort and help one another along the way. As your pastor, I preach on Sunday mornings. But I do not replace you. Though you might never enter a pulpit, you are part of the priesthood. No matter where you go, no matter what job you have, you can speak the Word of God to others. You can comfort and console, help and encourage others in the congregation as well as outside of the congregation.

Even more amazing is the fact that the Holy Spirit doesn’t have an assembly line that turns out everyone the same. The Spirit loves variety, making us all different, giving each of us particular gifts for God’s service. Whether it is reading the lesson, helping with the financial team, serving coffee, or greeting a new visitor you are an integral part of the church.

You might object by saying these things are all too common. Don’t listen to the old Adam! Remember, God loves common things. God is the one who uses common water, bread, and wine to assure and reassure us that we belong to him. So, find a place in the church where you can use your gifts. And most important, rejoice knowing that God gives us all that we need: the Word, the sacraments, and the company of others. They are God’s gifts, given in the Spirit to make us new each day. You are a gift!

Many opportunities to assist in worship

Greeters & Ushers — We are looking for people willing to sign up as greeters and ushers. This is an important ministry of the church because these servants are the first point of contact for people visiting the church.

Calling all singers — Choir rehearsals are beginning once again. The first rehearsal is Wednesday, September 17 @ 6:30 pm in the church sanctuary. The choir is made up of dedicated singers, ages 14 to 80 with a variety of musical abilities. This ministry, of the church, witnesses in music to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Questions, contact Priscilla Silver at music@reflutheran.org

See the website for a full list of worship needs: www.reflutheran.org/assistworship

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Welcome back to school! — Sunday School, that is.*Elaine Ohgi*

Our regular Sunday school program will resume on **September 7**. There will be a few changes that you should know about.

First, **all ages** (pre-kindergarten through adult) will **gather in the sanctuary** for a joint opening at **9:50**. There will be a short activity each Sunday. September 7 will be "Birthday Sunday." Everyone having a birthday in September will be recognized. If you have a birthday in September, please come prepared to put a penny in the bank for each year of your age. We'll count out the ages for kids (and any willing adults). Any monies collected will be given to missionaries. The first Sunday of every month will be "Birthday Sunday." On other Sundays the activities will include learning or practicing an old hymn, learning a children's song, learning about our missionaries. After the activity, we'll go into age level classes: Pre-K (ages 2 – 4), Kindergarten - 2nd Grades, 3rd – 5th Grades, 6th – 8th, high school, and adult.

It is our prayer that we will all draw closer to God and each other through studying God's word in Sunday school.

Website Update

The new website and church management tools are going strong! People are increasingly using the web site and tools to share knowledge and communicate. New tools have been added to expand our outreach and internal operational capabilities.

Metrics

RLC Friends & Members	March	Current	Change
People who can sign onto our website	57	108	+51
People who are using the web site	39	59	+20

New Tools

Tools	Purpose	Web Address	Comment
You Tube	View videos	www.youtube.com/user/reflutheran	See "The Lutheran Song."
Google Mail	RLC Mail system	www.google.com/a/reflutheran.org	RLC leaders have email address
Flickr	Share photos	www.flickr.com/photos/reflutheran	For training see Chris Combs
Portal	Personal Page	partnerpage.google.com/reflutheran.org	
Tech Support	On line support	http://reflutheran.org/support	

Continued Outreach! - Pastor Russ has new, wonderful stories of people seeking spiritual guidance and support and finding us via our web site.

Training - A new training schedule for basic navigation of the website will be published shortly. For individual training of specific tasks, please contact Steve or Chris

More to follow – *Steve and Chris*

Building Update

Our grading permit should be in our hands next week. At the suggestion of an alert building official, we checked into our flood insurance and by raising the height of the building a small amount, we will save a considerable amount of money on our insurance over the years. This necessitated some re-drawing on our civil plans and caused a delay. All of that is done now and the civil plans were submitted last week. The city sent them back with a few corrections which were completed Thursday. The plans will be re-submitted on Friday or Monday and we should have our permit within 3-4 days after that.

The building permit is still under review with the city. It is undergoing its' 4th submittal which is very, very unusual. We are hopeful that this will be resolved in the next week or so, so that we can go right from grading to building our new sanctuary.

Joy Filled Giving

a note from Ned Jacobson

Use your values to guide financial decisions

Your values serve as an important foundation for how you manage your money. They're the things that are most important to you—for example, your faith, family, friends, health, education or giving back. Your values give you a rock-solid sense of who you are and what you believe in. Your values come from experiences in life. They also drive your decisions and actions. For example, if you value your health, you may exercise daily. If you value learning, you may continue your education by attending classes.

Developing a clear and compelling list of your values makes it easier to choose how you want to use your time, talents and treasures. When it comes to your money, you have three choices: *Share, Save, & Spend*. As a steward of your resources, having a guideline for how you use your money can be helpful.

What's more, your values can be a clear, consistent guide to who you are and what you want to become. Investing time and energy to define your values and then aligning your actions with your values is a powerful way to achieve your financial goals and live the life of your dreams.

Statistics (Year to date)

Average Attendance	154	Budget Income	\$ 154,000
Weddings	7	Actual Income	\$ 139,000
Baptisms	4		
New Members	10	Budget Expense	\$ 154,000
Confirmations	3	Actual Expense	\$ 156,000
		Building Fund	\$ 71,000

Mark your calendar

Pastor's Bible Study on Exodus — There are two important questions asked in the book of Exodus: Who is the Lord? What kind of Lord is he? Join Pastor Russ Wednesday evenings @ 7:00 pm as he leads a study on the book of Exodus. The class begins on September 24. See the church website for more information: www.reflutheran.org/exodus

New Members Class—We would like to invite you and your family to spend seven Sunday mornings studying a fascinating and most important subject, namely, your faith. Beginning Sunday, September 14 at 9:50, we will be studying the central teachings of Christianity as well as the Lutheran Church. During the seven-week class, you are encouraged to ask questions and participate in the discussion. For more information: www.reflutheran.org/memberclass

Youth Ministry Kick Off

Calling all Awesome Adventures (3rd to 5th grade), Jr. High, and High School Students! On Wednesday, September 17 at 6:00 pm, we are kicking off our youth ministry. Parents and students are invited to join us for an hour of worship, information, and dessert. Nursery care provided. See our website for more information: www.reflutheran.org/youth

Confirmation Is Beginning

It is that time again to begin confirmation. Confirmation is a life-changing event of learning and serving. The class meets Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. Our kickoff is September 17 at 6:00 pm. Our first regular class is September 24. For more information see the church website: www.reflutheran.org/confirmation

Celebration B.B.Q.

The sanctuary is being built. Praise God! To celebrate, we are having a BBQ on Sunday, October 12 after the second service. The church will provide the meat. We are asking people to bring a side dish or dessert. To help with the set up, cooking, and serving see the church website: www.reflutheran.org/BBQ

Harvest Festival— It's that time for Reformation's annual Harvest Festival. On October 31 (Halloween), from 4:00 to 8:00 pm, we will be hosting a fun-filled party. There will be bounce houses, games, food, candy, a cakewalk, and other prizes. It is absolutely free for you and your family. **Interested in volunteering** -- If you would like to volunteer then go to our website to see where you can lend a hand www.reflutheran.org/harvest

Prepare yourselves for worship by reading the Scriptures beforehand

	<u>O.T.</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Sept 7	Ezekiel 33:7-9	Romans 13:1-10	Matthew 18:1-20
Sept 14	Genesis 50:15-21	Romans 14:1-12	Matthew 18:21-35
Sept 21	Isaiah 55:6-9	Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30	Matthew 20:1-16
Sept 28	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32	Philippians 2:1-18	Matthew 21:23-32
October 5	Isaiah 5:1-7	Philippians 3:4b-14	Matthew 21:33-46
October 12	Isaiah 25:6-9	Philippians 4:4-13	Matthew 22:1-14
October 19	Isaiah 45:1-7	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	Matthew 22:15-22
October 26	Revelation 14:6-7	Romans 3:19-28	Matthew 11:12-19

