

# Reformation Lutheran Church

## Pastor Ken

What do you remember about the church you attended where you grew up? Maybe you have some old photograph that shows family [dressed in Sunday best] posing for a moment in time. Can you remember the people, the pastor, and how you felt about church? Was your church full of grace?

The liturgical color of the season is green, which speaks to our growth in faith as we follow the teachings and ministry of Christ. Grace is the thread that connects our lectionary readings together as we hear Scripture reveal the depth and breadth of our holy Father's love for us. Our Father pours out his grace upon us like rain! Shouldn't we be so grace-soaked and saturated that our natural response in every thought, word, and deed is dripping with grace? It's easy to give out grace as a child of God to another when we've not been hurt; it is not easy to pour out our grace when we have been hurt.

We read St. Paul's epistle to the Romans (Romans 8:28, ESV): "For we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." These words of Paul are intended to bring comfort to the hearer who is in the midst of suffering and persecution. I wonder if the Jews that Paul was encouraging wrestled with this scriptural truth as much as we do, as much as I have.

I can testify that during trial, persecution, and suffering—though I knew God was always with me—I didn't rejoice in the pain nor did I find much comfort in the 'already but not yet' truth that my Abba would take this season and cause goodness to grow from it in time. In spite of my 'understanding,' God did cause good and continues to cause good to spring forth from my suffering—and from your suffering, as well. His grace makes all the difference.

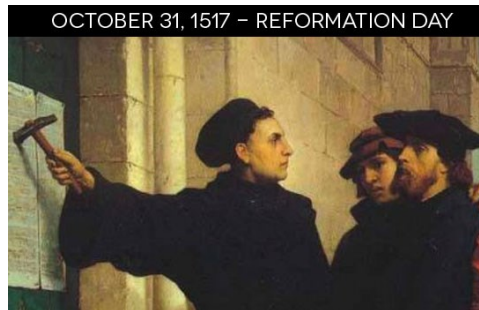
When we find ourselves surrounded by pain, doubt, suffering, or persecution, we must trust the author of our faith. We must continue through this chapter in our lives until we reach the chapter that says, "God is good and His love endures forever!" His grace sustains us; His means of grace for us is found through baptism and communion. The holy sacraments equip us, nourish us, and enable us to walk by faith and not by our circumstances or feelings.

The Holy Spirit, which is received through baptism, gives us wisdom "to see the Father in all things" as we grow in Christ. The Holy Spirit who dwells in us gives us eyes to see where Abba has caused good things to come from the darkest of our experiences. The Holy Spirit gives us the power to extend grace to others—even those who have hurt us.

My prayer is that we continue to grow in His grace. I pray that we continue to read the Word outside of Sunday morning. I pray that we would encourage our family (grown-ups too) to find a church and attend regularly to hear of Christ and him crucified for the forgiveness of sin. Nothing else on this green earth matters more.

Grace be upon you,

Pastor Ken



OCTOBER 31, 1517 – REFORMATION DAY

### KATIE LUTHER

This year we celebrate 500 years since the Reformation. On Sunday, October 22, during the service Katie Luther (played by Laurel Jones) will be here telling us many things.

Please invite your family and friends. After the service we will have some light German-type refreshments. There is a sign-up sheet for you to bring your favorite fall pastry to share. Please contact Ed or Sharryn Riemer.

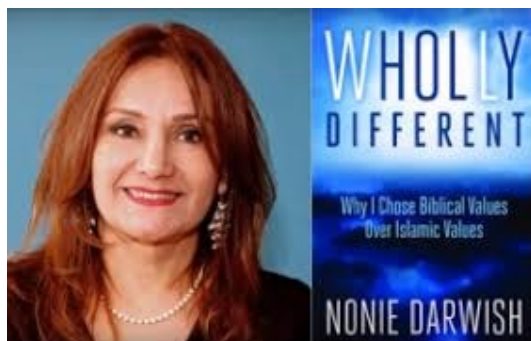
### REFORMATION SUNDAY

On this day we remember Martin Luther nailing the 95 theses to the church door in Wittenberg. We will celebrate Reformation Sunday on October 29. Please wear the color **red**.

### ALL SAINTS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5

The custom of commemorating all the martyrs of the Church on a single day goes back at least to the third century. All Saints' Day (Nov. 1) celebrates not only the martyrs and saints, but all the people of God, living and dead, who together form the body of Christ.

***Write the names of your loved ones who died this last year on the back of your blue attendance card, call the church office @ 714-893-5183, or email Patti at: [office@reflutheran.org](mailto:office@reflutheran.org). Their names will be included in the bulletin and prayers on Sunday, November 5.***



### REFORMATION INVITES YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS Understanding Islam Part 2

We will hear from Nonie, born as a Muslim in Cairo, Egypt. She left Islam and became a Christian after learning the truth. Nonie's father was killed in Jihad, fighting alongside the Palestinians. Among her bestselling books is *Wholly Different*, which describes her life as a Muslim in Egypt and tells why she left Islam and became a Christian. Her book will be available for purchase.

# our community

## October

Grief & Loss: This group meets on Tuesdays in the fellowship hall at 10:00 A.M.

### Knotty Knitters

This group meets on second and fourth Thursdays in the fellowship hall at 10:00 A.M.

### Vacation Time

Patti will be on vacation from Monday October 9, and returning to the office on October 18. Please call the office before coming down.

### **BIBLE STUDIES:**

Ladies: Wednesday, The book of Psalms' study is led by Jackie Zugates. Bring your Bible and a friend. Meet with us at 10:00 A.M. in the fellowship hall.

Men's: The men of RLC meet for Bible study Saturday mornings at 8:00 A.M. in the of the church office.

### Church Council

The council invites you to join them at its monthly meeting held on the third Tuesday of each month. The next meeting is October 17 at 6:00 P.M.

### Chancel Choir

Come, join the choir on Thursday nights in the church at 6:30 P.M. Contact Liz for information by email: [nguyen.lizdee@gmail.com](mailto:nguyen.lizdee@gmail.com)



**November 4, Saturday, move  
the clock back an hour.**



# Upcoming events



We are happy to announce that we will have a Harvest Festival on Tuesday, October 31, from 5 to 8 P.M.

We will serve hot dogs, chips, and water. There will also be a bounce house and candy handed out. If you would like to help, contact the office or Jeff Fredrickson.

Victory Outreach will partner with us with Carnival games, Truck 'n Treat, and a dessert area.

Candy donations are welcomed.



We are taking orders for Christmas wreaths and greenery. The order forms can be found in the front of the office or narthex. Orders will be accepted until Wednesday, November 1. This year we again have the option of having items delivered to church or sent to friends and family directly (there is a separate sheet for those addresses). The products delivered to the church will arrive after Thanksgiving, and the mailed items will be sent in plenty of time for the holidays. Take an order form for yourself and a couple for your friends, neighbors, and family. Contact Patti in the church office, 714-893-5183. All proceeds will go to the Building Fund.

## PRAAYER CORNER

On Sundays, if you have a prayer request, please fill out a blue card found in the pews and place it in the offering plate. Members of the prayer team will pray for your request. You may indicate on the blue cards if you also want your request included in the monthly prayer list for the congregation. If you have an urgent request or want to update a request, please email Patti Peterson at [office@reflutheran.org](mailto:office@reflutheran.org) or call the church office, 714-893-5183.

*Then your light will break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing will quickly appear;  
then your righteousness will go before you,  
and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard.*

*Isaiah 58:8*