

Reformation Power

“A mighty fortress is our God, a trusty shield and weapon.” This is the modern version of the first line from the inspiring hymn written by Martin Luther during the 1500’s. His original hymn, based on Psalm 46, has become one of the most beloved songs used to celebrate Reformation as well as to provide courage and strength to Christians struggling through difficult times.

It is a well-needed reminder at how **unbelievably powerful** our God is. It is easy to fixate on a warm and fuzzy God who *“leads me beside still waters”* (Psalm 23). But He is also the one who created the world with a word, parted the Red Sea, slaughtered armies who were threatening His chosen people, cast out demons and defeated death.

This is the God that promises to be our fortress. A fortress is a stronghold, a permanent fortification that surrounds something that needs protection. Protected by Him, we literally have nothing to fear. Not uncertainty, not COVID, not elections, not riots, not economic crisis, not threats of war, not even death. He is the Almighty - the Lord of Heaven and Earth goes before us and His will prevails. He is the one that says “Stop. Be still. I’ve got this.” His promise, realized in Jesus’ death and resurrection, is 100% guaranteed. Go ahead and rest secure in that promise.

~Dr. Lisa Meyers

He says, “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Psalm 46:10

Benefits of Blended Learning



Valley Lutheran teacher Ben Cooper combines hands-on, face-to-face instruction and digital resources in his Biology classes.

According to Valley Lutheran senior, **Chae Kelsey**, being able to be back in the school building with her classmates and teachers this fall, “is great because learning really isn’t the same online...Being taught face-to-face is beneficial, and I like seeing my friends.” While Valley Lutheran students are currently able to benefit from in-class instruction once again, that education is being bolstered more and more with on-line resources to support what is happening in the classroom.

This concept of combining face-to-face learning with learning using digital resources is not new to VL students, but the intentional planning and use of digital resources has become critical to the educational process, especially at this time. According to **Dr. Lisa Meyers**, Academic

Dean, one of the significant reasons for implementing blended learning is that “this is the best preparation we can give students before they move on to college, military, and career because, in those settings, they will be expected to learn and develop independently as well as face-to-face.”

Since VL teachers make most of their class content accessible through Google Classroom and other digital platforms, students who are absent for short periods of time are still able to connect and stay active in their classes even though they may not be able to be physically present. This on-line access to course content allows teachers to provide quality education to both groups (present and absent).

As teachers shift to using more on-line resources outside of the classroom, students assume more of the

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If you need a little Reformation inspiration, check out this “quarantine” version of “A Mighty Fortress” by clicking [here](#).

In a Year of "Less," VL Golf Scramble Sees More!



2020 has seen a lot of things cancelled. From concerts to graduation parties. Vacations to wedding ceremonies. Virtually all large-group gatherings have had to be cancelled. However, the 21st Annual VLHS Golf Scramble flew in the face of the trend and was a wonderful (and safe) success: boasting the largest number of golfers we've ever had!

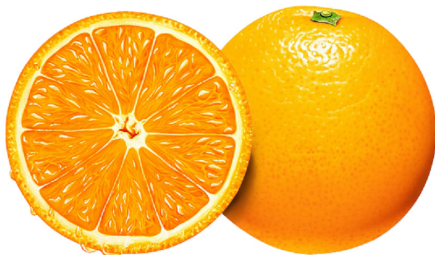
This event brought a great variety of VL family members together to enjoy some fun and (socially distanced) fellowship, even leading to reflection about the significance of VLHS in a person's life.

"As I look back, I know for a fact I wouldn't be who I am today if it wasn't for Valley Lutheran," reflected an alumnus. "I didn't always want to be at Valley when I was there... and I know I let people know it. But, I am so thankful for what I learned and for the friendships I still have to this day. I am very grateful for Valley Lutheran, and the impact it has had on my life."

In addition to being a well-attended and generally fun golf outing, over \$6,000 was raised for student aid. These funds enable students to receive assistance to attend Valley Lutheran High School -- often providing scholarships which make a VLHS education possible for many families.

Thanks to all the golfers, sponsors, and volunteers who helped make the 2020 VL Golf Scramble memorable and impactful!

Valley Lutheran's Annual Fruit Sale Runs Through November 10th!



- Navel Oranges, Mandarins, Pink Grapefruit, and Mixed Boxes are sold in 20 lb. and 40 lb. boxes.
- The fruit will be boxed bulk, with no trays, except Citrus Delight.
- ALL fruit will be from FLORIDA! (Not California)

To order call the office at (989) 790-1676 or contact a Valley Lutheran student.

Blended Learning

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responsibility for tackling the foundational learning on their own through readings and videos posted to Google Classroom. This frees up more of the face-to-face class time for activities and discussions that involve more of the higher-order thinking skills.

Dr. Meyers sees this educational shift as a boost to VL education, "Blended learning helps students develop confidence, independence, initiative, resourcefulness, problem solving, critical thinking, and technology skills. It is the hallmark of great 21st-century education."

Coming to a screen near you this November...

The Saving Spark

A play adapted from a Slavic Folktale

Valley Lutheran's Fall Play to be produced as a movie!

Look for a trailer and a release date coming soon!

We are excited to invite current 8th graders and their families to our

Winter Information Night

*Meet school leaders

*Tour new spaces

*Hear how Valley Lutheran is a place where students belong and excel

December 3rd

Timed arrivals begin at 6pm

Reserve your time slot at

www.vlhs.com/InfoNight

Contact Amy Cooper at acooper@vlhs.com with ?'s