

August 27, 2023

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 AM

REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

613 Lakeview Avenue

Milford, Delaware 19963



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Office hours (*Closed holidays*):

9:00am-3:30pm, Monday–Friday

Pat Sparks

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Director of Music / Organist

The Rev. Eric W. Evers & The Rev. Paige G. Evers

Pastors

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# The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 am service

*You can find videos of this Sunday's service and our past services (along with downloadable bulletins) at [www.rlcmilford.com/connect](http://www.rlcmilford.com/connect). Share these with your friends and family on social media so we can touch more lives with God's Word!*

Please silence cell phones before worship begins. Thank you!

## Welcome to Reformation!

We are especially glad to welcome visitors to worship. We hope you experience God's love for you this morning! Visitors are invited to sign the pew pads so we can be in touch with you.

## Holy Communion

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please follow the usher's directions to come forward down the center aisle to receive the bread and wine. If you prefer a gluten-free wafer or grape juice, please inform the server. Those who do not yet receive Communion are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing.

Lutherans believe that in Communion, we receive the Body and Blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins, the renewal of our faith, and the strengthening of our Christian community. Come, taste and see that the Lord is good!

## Prayer Requests

To add someone to the prayers of the Church, please write their name on the list behind the altar.

### **The Mission of Reformation Lutheran Church is to:**

**Invite** our neighbors as Jesus invites us.

**Engage** in a community of graceful discipleship.

**Equip** our members to grow in faith and ministry.

**Embody** the love of Jesus in our world.

# Gathering

*\* indicates the congregation is invited to stand, as able*

## Announcements

### Prelude

### \*Confession and Forgiveness

**P:** We gather in the name of the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**P:** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires are known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the forgiving and healing power of your Holy Spirit, so that we may reflect your glory as we grow in holiness and faith, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

**P:** God of mercy and life,

**C:** **we confess that we have turned from you and have fallen under the deadly power of sin. Our thoughts, words, and deeds have broken our fellowship with you and with our neighbors. Forgive us, we pray, and set us free from sin and death, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, both now and forever, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**P:** In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and in him, we are freed from sin and death. His Holy Spirit renews us and leads us into life. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**\*Gathering Hymn**

**"The Church's One Foundation"**

**No. 654**

### **\*Apostolic Greeting**

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** **And also with you.**

### **\*Hymn of Praise**      “He is Exalted”

Twila Paris

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high; I will praise Him.

He is exalted, forever exalted, and I will praise His name!

He is the Lord; forever His truth shall reign.

Heaven and earth rejoice in His holy name.

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high.

### **\*Prayer of the Day**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**P:** Let us pray...

**C:** **Amen.**

### **Children’s Sermon**

## **Word**

### **First Reading**

**Isaiah 51:1-6**

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the LORD. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. <sup>2</sup>Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many.

<sup>3</sup>For the LORD will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.

<sup>4</sup>Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. <sup>5</sup>I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope.

<sup>6</sup>Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

**A:** The Word of the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

**Romans 12:1-8**

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. <sup>3</sup>For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup>For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. <sup>6</sup>We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; <sup>7</sup>ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; <sup>8</sup>the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

**A:** The Word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

## \*Gospel Acclamation “Alleluia”

Traditional Melody

Alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia, alleluia.

## \*Gospel

**Matthew 16:13-20**

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 16th chapter.

**C:** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup>Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” <sup>14</sup>And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” <sup>15</sup>He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” <sup>17</sup>And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup>I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

<sup>20</sup>Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

**P:** The Gospel of the Lord.      **C:** Praise to you, O Christ.

**Sermon**

Pastor Eric W. Evers

**\*Hymn of the Day**

“Lead On, O King Eternal!”

**No. 805**

**Apostles’ Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**\*Prayers of Intercession**

**A:** Lord, in your mercy,

**C:** Hear our prayer.

### **\*The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we  
forgive those who trespass against us;  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever  
and ever. Amen.**

## **Meal**

### **\*Peace**

**P:** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C:** **And also with you.**

*The minsters and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

### **Collection of the Offering**

### **Musical Offering**

Summer Choir

### **\*Offertory**

“Shout to the Lord”

**No. 821**

My Jesus, my Savior,  
Lord, there is none like you.  
All of my days I want to praise  
the wonders of your mighty love.  
My comfort, my shelter,  
tower of refuge and strength;  
let ev'ry breath, all that I am  
never cease to worship you.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing  
power and majesty, praise to the King.  
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar  
at the sound of your name.

I sing for joy at the work of your hands;  
forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand.  
Nothing compares to the promise I have in you.

Text: Darlene Zschech, b. 1965

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### **\*Offertory Prayer**

**A:** Let us pray:

**C: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### **\*The Great Thanksgiving**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

**P:** Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

**P:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### **\*Proper Preface**

#### **\*"Holy, Holy"**

Jimmy Owens

Holy holy, holy holy, holy holy, Lord God Almighty.

And we lift our hearts before you as a token of our love.

Holy holy, holy holy.

Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit, Come and fill our hearts anew, Holy Spirit.

And we lift our voice before you as a token of our love.

Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit.

### **\*The Words of Institution**



## **“Spirit Song”**

John Wimber

O, let the Son of God enfold you with his Spirit and his love,  
Let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul.  
Oh, let him have the things that hold you, and his Spirit like a dove,  
Will descend upon your life and make you whole.

*Refrain:* Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.  
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.

O, come and sing this song with gladness  
as your hearts are filled with joy,  
Lift your hands in sweet surrender to his name.  
O, give him all your tears and sadness,  
give him all your years of pain,  
And you’ll enter into life in Jesus’ name. *(Refrain)*

## **The Distribution of Communion, Standing, at the Altar Rail**

Communion Hymns: “Built on a Rock,” No. 652; “Faith of Our  
Fathers,” No. 812; “Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal,” No. 464; “We  
Are Baptized in Christ Jesus,” No. 451

### **\*Post-Communion Blessing**

*Congregation responds with Amen.*

### **\*Post-Communion Prayer**

*Congregation responds with Amen.*

## **Sending**

### **\*Benediction**

*Congregation responds with Amen.*

### **\*Sending Hymn** “We All Are One in Mission”

**No. 576**

### **\*Dismissal**

*Congregation responds with Thanks be to God.*

## **Postlude**

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## THIS WEEK AT REFORMATION

Today                    9:00 am — Summer Choir  
                              10:00 am — Worship Service

Wednesday            7:00 pm — Worship & Music Committee

Next Sunday          10:00 am — Worship Service

## SERVING TODAY

<b>August 27</b>	<b>10:00</b>
Usher	Steve & Edith Weipert
Lay Reader	Kelsey Oldland
Worship Assistant	Todd Hannah
Acolyte	
Healing Prayer	Kristin Schlegel
Altar Guild	Carol Whyte
Live Stream Operator	Soren Evers

## SERVING NEXT SUNDAY

<b>September 3</b>	<b>10:00</b>
Usher	Ed Huey
Lay Reader	Lisa Caccamise
Worship Assistant	Ken Newell
Acolyte	Lexi Caccamise
Healing Prayer	Joy Rowe
Altar Guild	Janice Weiner
Live Stream Operator	Scott Rainville

## **God's blessings to Jack Pencek, receiving his Senior Quilt today!**

*Here are a few facts to help you get to know Jack better as we present his Senior Quilt. Congratulations to Jack and to everyone in the class of 2023 as they begin their next chapter!*

- 1) What school did you graduate from? **Cape Henlopen High School**
- 2) What was your high school pathway? **Communications/ARVE which stands for Audio Radio Video Engineering. I thought I might follow in my Dad's footsteps in broadcasting. I recently decided that I would love a career that allows me to travel the world. I am trying to figure out what that is.**
- 3) What were some activities you participated in during high school? **I participated in Wind Ensemble and Marching Band all four years. I play the Euphonium. I also went to Paris, France with my classmates in 2022. I studied French for three years and participated in French Club.**
- 4) What are you planning to do next? **I am going to Del Tech in Georgetown for at least one year, probably two. I will transfer to a four-year college when I have a clearer idea of what I want to study.**
- 5) What have you been involved with at Reformation? **I attend church regularly and was Confirmed in October 2021. I have served behind the scenes as a Livestream Operator for worship.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Help with Relief for Maui!** We have all seen the heartbreaking scenes of devastation in Hawaii from the deadly fires there. Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the Pacifica Synod and other partners to assess the needs of people impacted by the wildfires. You can give online to support this work at <https://community.elca.org/uswildfires>. Or, you can send a check payable to Lutheran Disaster Response with "U.S. Wildfires" on the memo line to:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
P.O. Box 1809  
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Gifts given specifically to "U.S. Wildfires" will be restricted to, and used in full (100%) for those affected by wildfires.

**Help Our Founding Member Celebrate!** Marge Reichhold, who was instrumental in the founding of Reformation Lutheran Church, is turning 100 on September 5! We would love to surround her with love from her church family. She would be delighted to receive birthday cards at 909 West Lane, Milford DE 19963. Thank you for helping to celebrate Marge's milestone birthday.

**Prayer Life Tune-Up!** We all know prayer is important, in fact essential, for Christians. But how many of us feel truly confident about our prayer life? As the summer draws to a close, you are invited to come **next** Thursday evening, September 7 at 7:00 to "tune up" your prayer practice. We will learn about some of the rich treasures the Bible offers to guide our prayers and next steps you can take.

**Give By Text:** Did you know that you can make a financial gift to Reformation by sending a text with a dollar amount to (302) 204-1410 and follow the instructions you receive back. However you give, your support matters! Thank you!

**From the Christian Service Committee:** We are collecting school supplies to be donated to the Milford School District. The greatest need is for backpacks.

**WELCA NEWS:** The Women of the ELCA (WELCA) will meet on Thursday, September 7, at 12 noon at the Church Annex. We will celebrate getting back together with a potluck luncheon followed by Bible study and a business meeting to elect officers and plan our 2023-2024 year. All women are welcome to join us, and we look forward to seeing you on September 7th. A signup sheet for the potluck luncheon is posted on the bulletin board across from the kitchen.

**Summer Schedule Extended!** We will have only **ONE worship service** on Sunday, September 10, at 10:00 AM. We will return to two worship services beginning September 17.

**News from the Choir Loft:** Full choir rehearsals begin on Thursday, September 14th at 7:00 pm. The bell choir will rehearse at 6:00 pm that evening.

**Reformation Booth at the Riverwalk Freedom Festival:** On Saturday, September 16 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., you are invited to greet visitors to Reformation's booth at the Riverwalk Festival in downtown Milford. This is a major annual festival with over 13,000 visitors! At our booth, we'll have a fun activity for guests and gifts to hand out to the public. We'll also give out information about our church. All ages are invited to serve at our booth. Come and have fun with your fellow church members and visitors to the Riverwalk Festival! Please sign up for a time block on the easel in the Narthex, or contact Dianna Smith ([diannasmith55@yahoo.com](mailto:diannasmith55@yahoo.com)) or Pastor Paige ([pr.paige@reformation-lutheran.net](mailto:pr.paige@reformation-lutheran.net)).

*More announcements, including birthdays and anniversaries  
on the next page.*

**Sign Up for Church News!** If you aren't receiving Reformation news through Constant Contact, please send an email to Pastor Eric at [pr.eric@reformation-lutheran.net](mailto:pr.eric@reformation-lutheran.net), and he will add you to this distribution list. It's a great way to keep up with what's going on at Reformation.

**Daily Devotional Guide:** Every Sunday afternoon, we post a daily guide for Bible readings and reflections, psalms to read and pray, and prayer suggestions. You can find it on our website: [www.rlcmilford.com/connect](http://www.rlcmilford.com/connect). We also offer a few printed copies in the narthex. We hope you will make use of this spiritual resource to grow in your faith!

**Children's Bulletins** are available in the Narthex. There is a version for 3 to 6 year olds and one for children age 7 and up. The usher can help you locate them.

**Happy Birthday to:** Levi Dodge today, Pam Curnock on the 29th, and Pat Little on the 30th.

**Happy Anniversary to:** Drake & Marge DeHart today and Chris & Susie Antonik on the 28th.



## **Spread the word!**

Please “Like” Reformation’s **Facebook** page for news, announcements, and photos of church events!

[www.facebook.com/RLCMilford](http://www.facebook.com/RLCMilford)

Check in and **tweet** or post about what’s going on with the hashtag #RLCMilford, or post on Facebook and tag *Reformation Lutheran Church*.

Reformation is on **Instagram!**

Please follow our church’s profile: @rlcmilford