

September 3, 2023

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 AM

REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Milford, Delaware 19963



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Office hours (*Closed holidays*):

9:00am-3:30pm, Monday–Friday

Pat Sparks

Administrative Assistant

Gail Kelso

Director of Music / Organist

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

Pastors

The Fourteenth 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. 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**

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

No. 879

***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

Jeremiah 15:15-21

¹⁵O Lord, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. ¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts. ¹⁷I did not sit in the company of merry-makers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. ¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail. ¹⁹Therefore thus says the Lord: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them.

²⁰And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will

fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the Lord. ²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Romans 12:9-21

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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 16:21-28

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

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

²¹From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you

are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? ²⁷“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

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

Sermon

Pastor Paige G. Evers

***Hymn of the Day**

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

No. 798

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 ministers and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Collection of the Offering

Musical Offering

Kristin Schlegel

***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: “We Plow the Fields and Scatter,” No. 681;
“In the Singing,” No. 466; “There Is a Balm in Gilead,” No. 614; “This
Little Light of Mine,” No. 677

***Post-Communion Blessing**

Congregation responds with Amen.

***Post-Communion Prayer**

Congregation responds with Amen.

Sending

***Benediction**

Congregation responds with Amen.

***Sending Hymn** “Let Streams of Living Justice”

No. 710

***Dismissal**

Congregation responds with Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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THIS WEEK AT REFORMATION

Today 10:00 am — Worship Service
Monday LABOR DAY — KIDS Inc. & Church Office Closed
Thursday 12:00 pm — WELCA Meeting
 7:00 pm — Prayer Tune Up Class
Next Sunday 10:00 am — Worship Service
 11:00 am — Christian Service Committee

SERVING TODAY

September 3	10:00
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

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY

September 10	10:00
Usher	Norm & Kathy Hamstead
Lay Reader	<i>Joyce Nauman</i>
Worship Assistant	Eric Valentine
Acolyte	<i>Dresden Miller</i>
Healing Prayer	Diane Massey
Altar Guild	Janice Weiner
Live Stream Operator	<i>Kristin Schlegel</i>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Help Our Founding Member Celebrate! Marge Reichhold 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.

WELCA NEWS: The Women of the ELCA (WELCA) will meet on Thursday, September 7, at 12 noon at the Church Annex. We will celebrate 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. A signup sheet for the potluck luncheon is posted on the bulletin board across from the kitchen.

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 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.

From the Christian Service Committee: We will meet next Sunday, September 10, following the 10:00 AM worship service. Everyone who is interested in the work of the CSC is welcome to join us.

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) or Pastor Paige (pr.paige@reformation-lutheran.net).

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.

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!

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, 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. 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: Emily Marconi today, Marge Reichhold and Todd Hannah on the 5th, and Joe Romansky, Kelsey Oldland, Sandra Fox, Cheryl Carlton-Altares and Sherry Pike-Saville on the 8th.

Happy Anniversary to: Bill & Beth Meister on the 5th, Ron & Sharon Semmont on the 7th, and David Krantz & Silvia Martinez on the 9th.