

September 10, 2023

The Fifteenth 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 Fifteenth 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**

*“As We Gather at Your Table”*

**No. 522**

### **\*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**

**Ezekiel 33:7-11**

<sup>7</sup>So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup>But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

<sup>10</sup>Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” <sup>11</sup>Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

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

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

## Second Reading

**Romans 13:8-14**

<sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

<sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

**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 18:15-20**

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18th chapter.

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

<sup>15</sup>[Jesus said,] “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup>But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup>Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

<sup>19</sup>Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

**P:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C:** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**\*Hymn of the Day** “Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace” **No. 716**

**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

Kelsey Oldland

### \*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: “Take My Life, That I May Be,” No. 685; “I Come With Joy,” No. 482; “Go, My Children, with My Blessing,” No. 543; “Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven,” No. 864

### \*Post-Communion Blessing

*Congregation responds with Amen.*

### \*Post-Communion Prayer

*Congregation responds with Amen.*

## Sending

### \*Benediction

*Congregation responds with Amen.*

\*Sending Hymn “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

**No. 836**

### \*Dismissal

*Congregation responds with Thanks be to God.*

## Postlude

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### 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

## THIS WEEK AT REFORMATION

Today	10:00 am — Worship Service
Tuesday	6:30 pm — Growing Young Team
Thursday	10:00 am — Finance Committee 6:00 pm — Loderhose Committee 6:00 pm — Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm — Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group 7:00 pm — Choir Rehearsal
Saturday	9:00 am — RLC Booth at Riverwalk Festival
Next Sunday	8:30 am — Worship Service 9:45 am — Bible Study and Coffee Fellowship 11:00 am — Worship Service and Baptism

*Thank you to Pastor Dianna Smith for serving as our supply pastor today while Pastor Eric & Pastor Paige are away this weekend co-officiating at the wedding of a family friend.*

### SERVING TODAY

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

### SERVING NEXT SUNDAY

<b>September 17</b>	<b>8:30</b>	<b>11:00</b>
Usher	Carol Benner-Chaffinch	Bill Vendetti
Lay Reader	Sally Newell	Karolyn Hayes
Worship Assistant	Mary K. Konesey	Todd Hannah
Acolyte		
Healing Prayer		Joy Rowe
Altar Guild	Janice Piatkowski	Deb Davis
Live Stream Operator	Sigrid Evers	

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**From the Christian Service Committee:** Thank you to everyone who donated school supplies and backpacks. We were able to provide much needed items to students in the Milford School District.

During September we will be collecting items for the “Stockings for Soldiers” program. This is a community effort to send personalized holiday greetings to our brave men and women in uniform serving our country throughout the world. Suggested items include:

Individual packaged, shelf-stable items like Beef-a-Roni™, tuna, lasagna, etc., Slim Jims™ and beef & turkey jerky, small candy (chocolate preferred), chewing gum, granola and protein bars, cookies, nuts, pretzels, and trail mix in small servings, flavored drink mix, music cd’s, puzzles, crosswords, and sudoku, Beanie Babies™, and paperbacks (no romance). Personal items like tooth brush and small toothpaste, razors, lotions, and foot powder are very much needed. Also, movie DVD's, pocket games, pens and note paper, as well as letters of appreciation from children, and signed holiday greeting cards would be welcomed.

**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).

*Announcement and birthdays and anniversaries  
continue on the following page.*

**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](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:** Linda Helm today, and Martha Emmett on the 14th.

**Happy Anniversary to:** Duane and Sandra Fox today, and Doug & Martha Emmett on the 15th.