

November 12, 2023

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 & 11:00 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

Administrative Assistant

Gail Kelso

Director of Music / Organist

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

Pastors

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 & 11:00 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**

“Come, We That Love the Lord”

No. 625

***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

Amos 5:18-24

¹⁸Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD? It is darkness, not light; ¹⁹as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. ²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

²¹I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. ²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. ²³Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. ²⁴But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 70 (read in unison)

¹Be pleased, O God, to deliver me. O LORD, make haste to help me!

²Let those be put to shame and confusion who seek my life. Let those be turned back and brought to dishonor who desire to hurt me.

³Let those who say, "Aha, Aha!" turn back because of their shame.

⁴Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you. Let those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!"

⁵But I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O LORD, do not delay!

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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 25:1-13

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 25th chapter.

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

[Jesus said,] "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with

their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' ¹²But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Paige G. Evers

***Hymn of the Day**

"Praise and Thanksgiving"

No. 689

***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

Special Music

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: No. 638, "Blessed Assurance;" No. 717, "Let
Justice Flow like Streams;" No.438, "My Lord, What a Morning;"
No. 439, "Soon and Very Soon"

***Post-Communion Blessing**

Congregation responds with Amen.

***Post-Communion Prayer**

Congregation responds with Amen.

Sending

***Benediction**

Congregation responds with Amen.

***Sending Hymn** "When Peace Like a River"

No. 785

***Dismissal**

Congregation responds with Thanks be to God.

Postlude

SERVING TODAY

November 12	8:30	11:00
Usher	Carol Benner-Chaffinch	Tim & Cheryl Altares
Lay Reader	Gary Johnson	Kelsey Oldland
Worship Assistant	Pam Curnock	Trish Boyer
Acolyte		Soren Evers
Healing Prayer	Kristin Schlegel	Joy Rowe
Altar Guild	Janice Weiner	Janice Piatkowski
Live Stream Operator	Kristin Schlegel	
Fellowship Host	Sandi Shea	

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY

November 19	8:30	11:00
Usher	Norm & Kathy Hamstead	Bill Vendetti
Lay Reader	Shannon Pencek	Karolyn Hayes
Worship Assistant	Dave Curnock	Eric Valentine
Acolyte	Connor Pencek	Lexi Caccamise
Healing Prayer	Kristin Schlegel	Joy Rowe
Altar Guild	Carol Whyte	Lisa Caccamise
Live Stream Operator	Soren Evers	
Fellowship Host	Karen Oldland	

THIS WEEK AT REFORMATION

Today	8:30 am —	Worship Service
	9:45 am —	Bible Study & Coffee Fellowship
	11:00 am —	Worship Service
	12:00 pm —	Stewardship Celebration Lunch
	5:00 pm —	High School Youth Group in the Annex
Tuesday	6:30 pm —	Growing Young Team
Thursday	6:00 pm —	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 pm —	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday	2:00 pm —	Skillshare: Cars, Carbs & Cash
Next Sunday	8:30 am —	Worship Service
	9:45 am —	Bible Study & Coffee Fellowship
	11:00 am —	Worship Service
	12:00 pm —	CSC Christmas Tree Project

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Celebration Lunch Today! Join us after the 11:00 service today for our all-congregation lunch. Soup and salad will be provided, and you are invited (but not obligated!) to bring a dessert to share. We will celebrate being together and the mission that God has called us to, together as a church family.

Youth Group Tonight!

All High Schoolers are invited to come to Youth Group in the Annex on Sunday, November 12 from 5-7 p.m. for dinner, Bible discussion, games, and youth bonding! The High School Youth Group meets twice a month. Contact leaders David Krantz, Silvia Martinez, Jake McDuff or Pastor Paige with any questions.

“Skillshare: Cars, Carbs & Cash” on Saturday, November 18: Skillshare is coming soon on Saturday, November 18 at 2 p.m. Come and learn practical life skills and have fun with people of all ages. You can learn how to change a flat tire and troubleshoot other car problems, or how to bake French baguette, an artisan bread, along with how to manage your personal finances. Come and enjoy learning, food, and fellowship! This is a new initiative hosted by the Growing Young Team. Sign up TODAY to attend Skillshare on the poster in the Narthex, or e-mail Pastor Paige: pr.paige@reformation-lutheran.net. See you at Skillshare!

Thanksgiving Eve Worship & Pie Social: On Wednesday, November 22nd at 7:30pm, we will gather for our Thanksgiving Eve service, followed by our annual Pie Social! All are invited to bring a favorite pie to share. We hope you will join us to thank God together as a church family for all his blessings.

Bake Cookies or Serve at the Santa House Cookie Table on Sunday, December 3:

Reformation will be offering free cookies to visitors to the Santa House in downtown Milford again this year! There will be a signup sheet in the Narthex soon where you can offer to provide 2 dozen cookies, or serve for an hour at the table on Walnut Street, right outside the Santa House. We'll be hosting the cookie table from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Please see Pastor Dianna Smith with any questions (diannasmith55@yahoo.com). Please save the date to greet visitors downtown and invite them to our Christmas Eve worship services!

The Women of the ELCA (WELCA) will be welcoming in the Christmas season at our annual Christmas luncheon. Please join us on Thursday, December 7 at 12 noon at the *Rookery South* in Milton, DE. All women are welcome. Even if you've never attended a WELCA meeting before, this is a great way to enjoy fellowship with other Reformation women. A signup sheet is posted on the bulletin board across from the kitchen. If you have any questions, please call Carol Whyte at 732-927-0231.

From the Christian Service Committee: We are collecting during November for victims of domestic violence. We plan to make pamper baskets for the women at the shelter. We're looking for donated pamper items (facial items, nail products, lotions, journals, pocket calendars, wash clothes, towels) to add to the baskets.

The domestic violence shelters provide emergency shelter in a safe and supportive environment. Advocacy and case management services are also provided.

Christmas Tree Decorators Needed: The Christian Service Committee will be decorating 24 mini-Christmas Trees following the 11:00 AM service next Sunday. These trees will be given to the residents of *Home of the Brave* in Milford as Reformation's way to share our Christmas Spirit with them. This event is in memory of Rita Kopp. Christmas tree decorators are needed. No special talent is required, just bring your Christmas Spirit. Please plan on joining the CSC in the Fellowship Hall on November 19th to decorate the trees.

The Mitten Tree returns on November 22. This year the gifts will be delivered by social workers at the Division of Aging and Physical Disabilities. There will be 50 adults/households with persons of either advanced age, living in poverty, or physically disabled, again living below poverty. If there is a grandparent in need we will provide gifts for the grandchildren as well. This group of individuals is largely overlooked during the holiday season. Many live in isolation. When the gifts are delivered it will bring an extra visit and Christmas cheer to these folks.

On the tree you will find yellow mittens, with a white mitten attached asking for a name and phone number for a friendly reminder if the gift is not here when it's time to deliver them. Additionally, you will find red mittens for donations to the Pastors' Discretionary Fund, ELCA World Hunger, and the Lutheran Seminary. Checks for ELCA World Hunger and the Lutheran Seminary should be made out to those organizations.

Checks for the Pastors' Discretionary Fund should be made out to Reformation Lutheran Church with a notation that it is for the fund.

Some tags contain specific gifts that people have asked for; please wrap these and attach the yellow tag securely so we can ensure it goes to the correct individual. When selecting your mitten please leave the white mitten in the gold box so we can contact you if need be. You may place gift cards in the box with their accompanying yellow mitten. Each mitten is specifically coded to ensure that each recipient receives their gifts.

Gifts may be returned at any time, however, all gifts must be here by Sunday, December 17, to ensure that the gifts are delivered by Christmas.

Please do not hesitate to call Suzanne Madanat at 302-382-6065 with any questions.

The Southern Delaware Chorale will be performing, "A Candlelight Concert: Midnight Mass," featuring such pieces as Messe de Minuit by Charpentier, Wilmington, a Christmas Anthem on the text "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!", O Nata Lux by Thomas Tallis, Go Tell it on the Mountain arranged by John Rutter, Christmas Day by Gustav Holst, audience sing-alongs and more! Our two Lee Mitchell Scholarship winners, Gina Garcia Perez and Caliana Valesquez will perform solos as well. The concert will take place at Epworth United Methodist Church , 19285 Holland Glade Road, Rehoboth Beach on Friday, December 1, 2023 at 7:30 P.M. and Saturday, December 2, 2023 at 3:00 P.M. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased online at www.southerndelawarechorale.org. Children under 18 are free. Tickets will be available at the door! Credit cards, checks and cash are accepted. Hope to see you there!

Give By Text: 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!

Children's bulletins are available in the Narthex. There is one for children aged 3-6 and one for children 7 years and older.

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 Devotions on Hold: The daily devotional guide began as an emergency substitute for in-person Bible studies when, during the pandemic, we couldn't meet. Now that regular church activities have been fully back for a while (even more than pre-covid!), Pastor Eric and Pastor Paige are looking at how we can simplify and streamline these devotions so that they are sustainable to keep up in the long term. We hope to have a new version in time for Advent or early in 2024. Thank you for your patience!

Happy Birthday to: Wendy Dodge today, Vance Carpenter on the 13th, Brock Huey and Beth Neeman on the 14th, Marion Suski on the 16th, and Marge DeHart and Peggy Gallego on the 18th.

Happy Anniversary to: Ray & Michele Engelseipen on the 14th and Paul & Karolyn Hayes on the 18th.

Spread the word!

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

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