

December 24, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:00 AM

REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Milford, Delaware 19963



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Office hours (*Closed holidays*):

9:00am-12:00pm, Monday–Friday

Gail Kelso

Director of Music / Organist

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

Pastors

Fourth Sunday of Advent

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.

***"Being transformed by Jesus so that, through us,
he is transforming the world."***

Reformation's Mission is to:

Welcome people to faith. Make disciples. Live what we believe.

Gathering

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

Prelude

Organ

Announcements

***Gathering Hymn** “Angels We Have Heard on High”

No. 289

***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.**

***Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray...

C: **Amen.**

“Come Worship the King”

Arranged and Orchestrated by Russell Mauldin and Sue C. Smith

“Come Worship the King Medley”

“We Need a Savior”

“Mary, Did You Know?”

Hymn of Praise & Lighting of the Advent Wreath (seated)

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah,” v. 1-4

No. 240

Word

The Reading

Colossians 1:9-19

^{9b}We have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God’s will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. ¹¹May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure

everything with patience, while joyfully ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.

A: The Word of the Lord. **C:** **Thanks be to God.**

“Come Worship the King” *continues*

“The First Noel”/“He is Born”
“Light of the World” Nancy Yost, Soloist

***Prayers of Intercession**

A: Lord, in your mercy, **C:** **Hear our prayer.**

Meal

***Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Share a sign of God’s peace with one another.

Collection of the Offering

Offertory “Prepare the Royal Highway” (v. 1, 3) **No. 264**

Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!
Let ev’ry hill and valley a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation its tribute too may bring.
All lands will bow before him; their voices join your singing:
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

*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, Holy"



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

***The Words of Institution**

***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.**

"Lamb of God"



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

The Distribution of Communion, Standing, at the Altar Rail

Communion Hymns: No. 269, "Once in Royal David's City;"
No. 277, "Away in a Manger;" No. 272, "Lo, How a Rose E'er
Blooming;" No. 300, "The First Noel"

***Post-Communion Blessing**

Congregation responds with Amen.

***Post-Communion Prayer**

Congregation responds with Amen.

“Come Worship the King” concludes

“Find All You Need in Jesus”

“Restless soul, be made content. Broken heart, take comfort. For the desperate, there is hope. Find all you need in Jesus. Come, come! He's waiting now for you. Come, come! Find all you need in Jesus.”

“Behold” / “O Come, Let Us Adore Him”

Sending

***Benediction**

Congregation responds with Amen.

***Sending Hymn**

“People Look East”

No. 248

***Dismissal**

Congregation responds with Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Organ

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Cantata Choir

Soprano

Pastor Paige Evers

Kathy Hubbard

Diane Massey

Joyce Nauman

Sally Newell

Karen Oldland

Kelsey Oldland

Janice Piatkowski

Carol Whyte

Alto

Carol Benner-Chaffinch
Pam Curnock
Tammy Mook
Loretta Rakow
Nancy Yost

Tenor

Trish Boyer
Eleanor Gregory
Kristin Schlegel
Steve Thien

Baritone

Mickey Chaffinch
David Curnock
Leon Green
Gary Johnson
Ken Newell
Jeremy Rakow
Pastor John Ranney

Narration

Silvia Martinez

Director

Gail Kelso

Thank you to the Choir, Silvia, and Gail for today's Cantata!
Thank you for blessing our congregation with your time, effort, and
musical gifts, and for helping us praise our newborn King, Jesus!

SERVING TODAY

December 24	10:00
Ushers	Edith & Steve Weipert
Lay Reader	Sally Newell
Worship Assistant	David Krantz
Acolyte	Soren Evers
Altar Guild	Janice Weiner
Live Stream Operator	Sigrid Evers

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY

December 31	10:00
Usher	Janice Weiner
Lay Reader	Kelsey Oldland
Worship Assistant	Trish Boyer
Acolyte	Lexi Caccamise
Healing Prayer	Diane Massey
Altar Guild	Janice Piatkowski
Live Stream Operator	Scott Rainville

THIS WEEK AT REFORMATION

Today	10:00 am — Worship Service
	4:00 pm — Christmas Eve Worship Service
	7:00 pm — Christmas Eve Worship Service

The church office will be closed this week.

Next Sunday	10:00 am — Service of Lessons & Carols & Holy Communion
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Christian Services Committee is again hosting an "**Advent Reverse Giving Calendar**" to support the Food Bank of Delaware. We're inviting you to add a food item to your very own Advent box each day to **give** a gift to help those with food insecurity in Delaware.

The Calendars are available in the Narthex. We encourage you to post it on your fridge and mark off the days as we approach Christmas, or use it for ideas of the needs of the Food Bank and give as you can. We will have a container in the Narthex to bring gifts weekly through Christmas Eve. All gifts will be delivered to the Food Bank in Milford for their pantry.

The **Women of the ELCA (WELCA)** will meet on Thursday, January 4th at 1:00 at the Church Annex. All women are welcome, and we hope to see you as we start 2024!

Financial Update: Thank you for your generous support of Reformation's ministries. A summary of Income and Expenses for January through November 2023 is posted on the bulletin board across from the kitchen.

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!

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.

Happy Birthday to: Keith Ayasse today, Ron Semmont on the 25th, Alex Huey on the 26th, Carol Whyte on the 27th, and Willow McKenzie on the 29th.

Christmas Special Services & Events

*All 8:30 or 10:00am Sunday worship services and special services are **on-site and online** unless noted*

Sunday, December 24th at 4:00pm:

Christmas Eve Service with young musicians

Sunday, December 24th at 7:00pm:

Christmas Eve Service with Choir (in person only)

Sunday, December 31st at 10:00am:

One service of Lessons, Carols, and Communion

Sunday, January 7th, 2024 at 8:30 & 11:00am:

Celebrating the Festivals of the Epiphany and the Baptism of Our Lord, removing sanctuary decorations after the 11:00 service.

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