

February 11, 2024

Transfiguration of Our Lord

8:30 & 11:00 AM

REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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

The Transfiguration of Our Lord

8:30 & 11:00 am services

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 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.

We have hearing assistance devices available. Please ask an Usher if you would like to use one to help with hearing the service.

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*

Announcements

Prelude

*Confession and Forgiveness

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

P: Almighty God... **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... in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

***Gathering Hymn** “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” **No. 631**

*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

2 Kings 2:1-12

Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. ³The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent." ⁴Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. ⁵The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent." ⁶Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." ¹⁰He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." ¹¹As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 50:1-6 (read in unison)

¹The mighty one, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

²Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

³Our God comes and does not keep silence, before him is a devouring fire, and a mighty tempest all around him.

⁴He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people:

⁵“Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!”

⁶The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge.

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.

⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake.

⁶For it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

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**

Mark 9:2-9

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 9th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were

terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

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

Sermon

Pastor Paige G. Evers

***Hymn of the Day** "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright" **No. 308**
Verses 1-4

Installation of Church Council (11:00)

***The 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	Special Music	8:30
	"A Lord-Built House" (Choir)	11:00

"I wanna live in a Lord-built house with a structure built on Love, with the rock foundation under me and the Heavenly Father above! I wanna live in a Lord-built house, wanna live in a Lord-built house!"

***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: God of mercy and goodness, your generosity sustains all of creation. Accept what we have gathered to be used for the work of your Kingdom. As we come to your table, fill us with your love, so that we might be signs of your presence in a world hungry for grace; through your Son, 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: #838, "Beautiful Savior;" #671, "Shine,
Jesus, Shine;" #715, "Christ Be Our Light;" #815 "I Want to Walk
as a Child of the Light"

***Post-Communion Blessing**

Congregation responds with Amen.

***Post-Communion Prayer**

Congregation responds with Amen.

Sending

***Benediction**

Congregation responds with Amen.

***Sending Hymn**

"We Are Marching in the Light"

No. 866

***Dismissal**

Congregation responds with Thanks be to God.

Postlude

SERVING TODAY

February 11	8:30	11:00
Usher	Al & Karen Stark	Tim & Cheryl Altares
Lay Reader	Rod Kopp	Joyce Nauman
Worship Assistant	Eric Valentine	Pam Curnock
Acolyte	Connor Pencek	Kristin Schlegel and Kailani Schlegel
Healing Prayer	Dianna Smith	Maynard Gregory
Altar Guild	Janice Weiner	Janice Piatkowski
Live Stream Operator	Jack Pencek	
Fellowship Host	Karen Oldland	

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY

February 18	8:30	11:00
Usher	Jeff Lockard	Bill Vendetti
Lay Reader	Sue Fischer	Karolyn Hayes
Worship Assistant	Pamela Curnock	Lisa Caccamise
Acolyte	Dresden Miller	Lexi Caccamise
Healing Prayer	Diane Massey	Joy Rowe
Altar Guild	Pam Curnock	Debbie Bryant-Davis
Live Stream Operator	Scott Rainville with Barrett Valentine	
Fellowship Host	Mary Lu Wilson	

THIS WEEK AT REFORMATION

Today	8:30 am	Worship Service
	9:45 am	Fellowship & Bible Study
	11:00 am	Worship Service
Wednesday	12:00 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Spoken Service
	6:30 pm	Soup Supper
	7:30 pm	Ash Wednesday Worship
Thursday	10:00 am	Finance Committee
Saturday	10:00 am	Senior Quilts (in Annex)
Next Sunday	8:30 am	Worship Service
	9:45 am	Fellowship & Bible Study
	11:00 am	Worship Service

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you for bringing Canned Food for our “Souper Bowl.” Each team will receive one point for each item donated. 3 points will be given for Chunky soup and cans of pasta! The team with the most points will be the winner of the Souper Bowl. The items will be donated to the Milford Community Food Pantry.

Lent Begins this Wednesday! Join us on Ash Wednesday as we begin this most holy of seasons, the 40 days leading up to Easter. We will have a spoken service with imposition of ashes at noon, and a service with communion, choir, and imposition of ashes at 7:30. Our first Soup Supper is Wednesday at 6:30pm.

CALLING ALL RING-A-LINGS!!! The handbells will be ringing for the Easter services this March 31st and we are looking for some new ringers! If you have any interest at all, please let Gail Kelso, Director of Music, know. We are looking for all ages, shapes, and sizes, beginners and up and I’ll even color-code the music if you’d like to try!

It is a short-term commitment with only 5 rehearsals which take place in the Sanctuary on Thursday nights from 6-7 PM. I actually do need to know if you’d like to join us (so I can give you a spot with just one bell or two bells) so please let me know beforehand. Our first rehearsal is February 15th at 6 PM. Come and give it a try! Who knows...you may love it once you try it! Text or call Gail at 302-228-4155.

Children’s Ministry: Coffee, Cookies & Conversation: Families with children are invited to Coffee, Cookies & Conversation about Faith Formation and Children’s Ministry at Reformation on Sunday, February 25 at 9:45 a.m. Pastor Paige and others will be asking parents and children for ideas and input about how we can help families nurture their kids’ faith in the home and at church. Grandparents and other caregivers are invited as well! Please contact Pastor Paige with any questions, pr.paige@reformation-lutheran.net.

From the Christian Service Committee - a special request for baby blankets: The NJHS is collecting diapers for the Delaware Adolescent Program Inc. and they would like to add baby blankets to the collection. The CSC will be collecting them until the end of February.

Volunteer for the Milford Food Pantry! The Milford Community Food Pantry needs volunteers! We are seeing an uptick in the number families coming to the food pantry and many of those families have only recently found themselves in a food insecure situation.

Looking forward I am hoping to have the food pantry open an additional day each week. Presently we are open Tues and Thursday 11-2. It is my fervent wish that more folks from Reformation would be involved, willing to be the hands of Christ to our needy neighbors. Speak to me, Dianna Smith, any Sunday or email me at diannasmith55@yahoo.com.

Rise Against Hunger on March 9: On Saturday, March 9, you're invited to serve at a meal-packing event at Sussex Central High School with the organization, Rise Against Hunger. Reformation's High School Youth Group will be serving at the 9:00-12:00 shift on March 9. If you prefer the afternoon, there is a shift from 12:30-3:30. Reformation's Christian Service Committee encourages you to get involved! **Please sign up on the website for whichever shift suits your schedule:** <https://tinyurl.com/RAH-Sussex-2024>. Adults, children and youth can participate.

Electronic Giving: Did you know that when you give electronically, Reformation is charged a fee? When you give at www.rlcmilford.com/give you will be given the **option** to add an additional 1.9% of your donation to your contribution to help defray some of the electronic giving fee. Thank you for your generous support of Reformation's ministries!

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. It's a great way to keep up with what's going on at Reformation.

Happy Birthday to: Michele Engelsiepen on the 12th, Eli Rakow and Lee Clarke on the 13th, Dick Smullen and Janet Yonker on the 14th, Noah McDougall on the 16th, and Ed Huey and Jaeli McDuff on the 17th.

Happy Anniversary to Jim & Belinda Bahder on the 14th.