

February 18, 2024
First Sunday in Lent

8:30 & 11:00 AM

REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH
613 Lakeview Avenue
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

First Sunday in Lent

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.

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

Please silence your cell phone 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*

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.**

P: Let us examine...

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** "O Lord, throughout These Forty Days" **No. 319**

***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** “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy” **No. 588**
(v. 1 & 2)

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heav'n.

There is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgment giv'n.

There is welcome for the sinner, and a promised grace made good;
there is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.

There is grace enough for thousands of new worlds as great as this;
there is room for fresh creations in that upper home of bliss.

***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

Genesis 9:8-17

⁸Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.”

¹²God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations:

¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God

and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.”¹⁷ God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

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

Psalm 25:1-10 (read in unison)

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

²O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.

³Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

⁴Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.

⁵Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

⁶Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

⁷Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

⁸Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

⁹He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

¹⁰All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

Second Reading

1 Peter 3:18-22

¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.

²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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

***Gospel Acclamation**



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

***Gospel**

Mark 1:9-15

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1st chapter.

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

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." ¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. ¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

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

Sermon

Pastor Eric W. Evers

***Hymn of the Day** "Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow" **No. 327**

***Prayers of Intercession**

A: Hear us, O God,

C: **Your mercy is great.**

***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.**

Please share a sign of peace with those around you.

Collection of the Offering

Musical Offering	“The Miracle of Grace” (Choir)	8:30
	Special Music	11:00

Offertory “Create in Me A Clean Heart, O God” **No. 186**



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right



spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take



not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of



your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

*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.

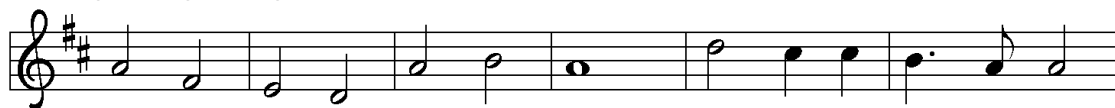
C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

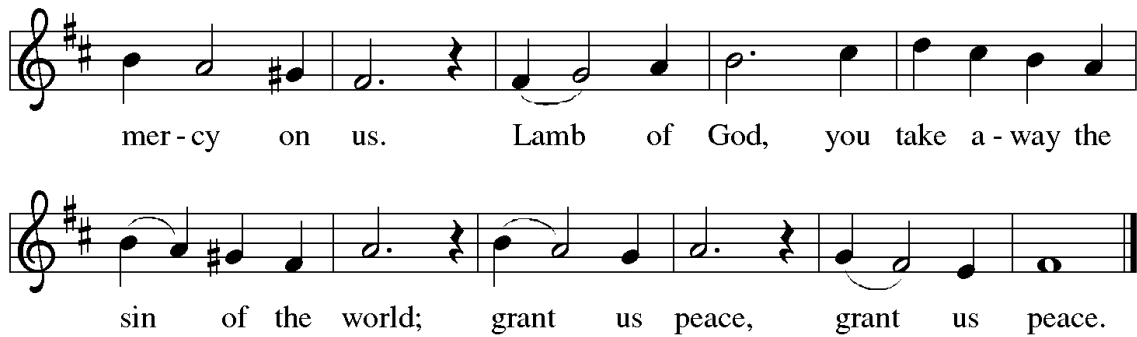
"Lamb of God"



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. 325, "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me;"
No. 446, "I'm Going on a Journey;" No. 304, "Christ, When for Us
You Were Baptized;" No. 516, "Almighty God, Your Word is Cast"

***Post-Communion Blessing**

Congregation responds with Amen.

***Post-Communion Prayer**

Congregation responds with Amen.

Sending

***Benediction**

Congregation responds with Amen.

***Sending Hymn**

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

No. 324

***Dismissal**

Congregation responds with Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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SERVING TODAY

February 18	8:30	11:00
Usher	Jeff Lockard	Bill Vendetti
Lay Reader	Sue Fischer	Karolyn Hayes
Worship Assistant	David 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	

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY

February 25	8:30	11:00
Usher	Al & Karen Stark	Todd Hannah
Lay Reader	Ron Semmont	Sally Newell
Worship Assistant	Eric Valentine	Kristin Schlegel
Acolyte	Connor Pencek	
Healing Prayer	Dianna Smith	Maynard Gregory
Altar Guild	Carol Whyte	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
Live Stream Operator	Soren Evers	
Fellowship Host	Lisa Caccamise	

THIS WEEK AT REFORMATION

Today	8:30 am	Worship Service
	9:45 am	Fellowship & Bible Study
	11:00 am	Worship Service
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Church Council Meeting
Wednesday	6:15 pm	Soup Supper
	7:00 pm	Evening Prayer
Thursday	6:00 pm	Handbell Choir
	7:00 pm	Choir
Next Sunday	8:30 am	Worship Service
	9:45 am	Fellowship
	9:45 am	Children's Ministry Gathering
	11:00 am	Worship Service
	5:00 pm	Youth Group (Annex)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lent Soup Supper & Evening Prayer: Join us Wednesdays in Lent for food, fellowship, and worship! We will have soup suppers at 6:15pm and evening prayer at 7:00pm. This year, we are using *Holden Evening Prayer*, a brief, beautiful service of music, prayer and Scripture. We hope you will enrich your Lenten season by feeding your body and soul on Wednesday nights!

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. Rehearsals are on Thursdays 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.

The Christian Service Committee is also making large drawstring **backpacks for victims of domestic violence**. We need volunteers to help with sewing. Precut fabric will be provided after church services on February 25th. We need the completed backpacks at the end of March. Assistance with this project would be greatly appreciated.

Financial Update: Thank you for your generous support of Reformation's ministries! For the month of January 2024, budget income exceeded budget expenses. A summary of Income and Expenses for January is posted on the bulletin board across from the kitchen.

High School Youth Group meets next Sunday from 5-7 pm in the Annex. Dinner is part of Youth Group, along with conversation, faith learning, and fun! Please see David Krantz, Silvia Martinez, Jake McDuff, or Pastor Paige for more information.

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 support Reformation by sending a text with a dollar amount to (302) 204-1410 and following 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: Shannon Pencek on the 18th, Rich Steenland on the 19th, Philip Ruff on the 20th, Suzanne Madanat on the 21st, and Pam Thomas on the 22nd.