

February 25, 2024
Second Sunday in Lent

8:30 & 11:00 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

Second 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** “How Firm a Foundation” **No. 796**

***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 17:1-7, 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

¹⁵God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

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

Psalms 22:23-31 (read in unison)

²³You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

²⁴For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him.

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

²⁶The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

²⁸For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.

²⁹To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

³⁰Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,

³¹and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

Second Reading

Romans 4:13-25

¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. ¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.”

²³Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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 8:31-38

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 8th chapter.

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

³¹Then [Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

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

Sermon

Pastor Paige G. Evers

***Hymn of the Day**

“Bless Now, O God, the Journey”

No. 326

***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

Special Music

8:30

“The Miracle of Grace” (Choir) 11:00


Offertory

“Create in Me A Clean Heart, O God”

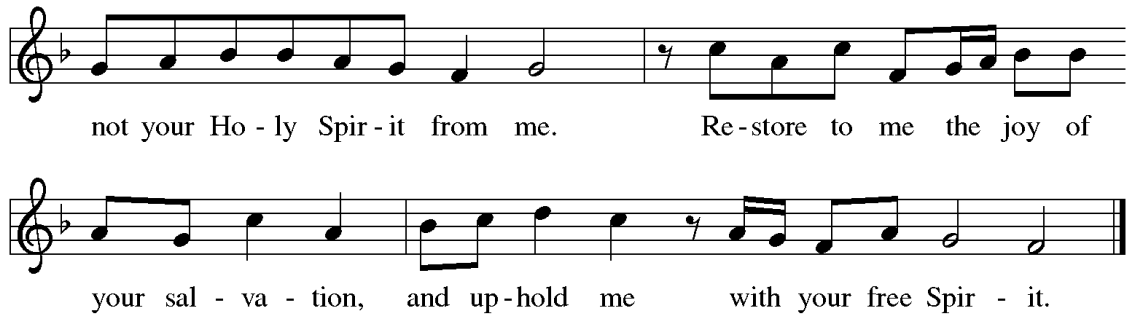
No. 186



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.

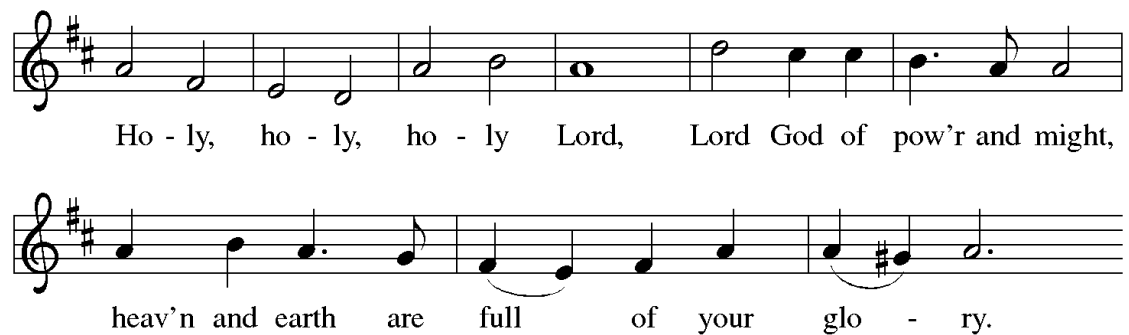
C: We lift them to the Lord.

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. 810, “O Jesus, I Have Promised;” No. 754, “Jesus, the Very Thought of You;” No. 806, “O God, My Faithful God;” No. 812, “Faith of Our Fathers”

***Post-Communion Blessing**

Congregation responds with Amen.

***Post-Communion Prayer**

Congregation responds with Amen.

Sending

*Benediction

Congregation responds with Amen.

*Sending Hymn

“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”

No. 335

*Dismissal

Congregation responds with Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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SERVING TODAY

February 25

Usher

Lay Reader

Worship Assistant

Acolyte

Healing Prayer

Altar Guild

Live Stream Operator

Fellowship Host

8:30

Al & Karen Stark

Ron Semmont

Eric Valentine

Connor Pencek

Dianna Smith

Carol Whyte

Soren Evers

Lisa Caccamise

11:00

Todd Hannah

Sally Newell

Kristin Schlegel

Volunteer needed

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY

March 3

Usher

Lay Reader

Worship Assistant

Acolyte

Healing Prayer

Altar Guild

Live Stream Operator

Fellowship Host

8:30

Noah McDougall

Chris Antonik

Ken Newell

Dresden Miller

Diane Massey

Janice Weiner

Kristin Schlegel w/ Noah McDougall

Melissa Miller

11:00

Soren Evers

Rodd Kopp

Todd Hannah

Lexi Caccamise

Joy Rowe

Lisa Caccamise

THIS WEEK AT REFORMATION

Today	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)
Wednesday	6:15 pm	Soup Supper
	7:00 pm	Evening Prayer
	7:30 pm	Confirmation
Thursday	6:00 pm	Handbell Choir
	7:00 pm	Choir
Saturday	10:00 am	Stewardship Cte (Annex)
Next Sunday	8:30 am	Worship Service
	9:45 am	Fellowship & Bible Study
	11:00 am	Worship Service

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Children's Ministry: Coffee, Cookies & Conversation TODAY: Families with children are invited to Coffee, Cookies & Conversation about Faith Formation and Children's Ministry at Reformation **today** 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!

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 today. We need the completed backpacks at the end of March. Assistance with this project would be greatly appreciated.

Movie & Fellowship Event: The congregation is invited to a matinee showing of the movie RUTH, a Sight and Sound Production. It will be shown in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, March 3, 2024, at 2 pm. WELCA will be hosting the event, and refreshments will be served. Please sign up in the Narthex or contact Cheryl Altares at 717-805-9932 to RSVP. That will help with planning for seating and snacks! Thank you!

High School Youth Group meets **today** 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: Will Nauman on February 26th and Gwen Hebert on March 3rd; **Happy Anniversary to:** Maurice & Pat Little on the 27th, and Mark & Joyce Nauman on the 28th.