

March 24, 2024

# Palm/Passion Sunday

REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

613 Lakeview Avenue

Milford, Delaware, 19963



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Phone: 302-422-9117

[www.rlcmilford.com](http://www.rlcmilford.com)

Office hours (*Closed holidays*):

9:00am-2:00pm, Monday–Friday

Susan Bozak

Administrative Assistant

Gail Kelso

Director of Music / Organist

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

Pastors

# **Palm Sunday / Passion Sunday**

**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](http://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.**

**\*Procession with Palms**

**P:** Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

**C:** **Hosanna to the Son of David!**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**P:** Let us pray ...

**C:** **Amen.**

**\*A reading from St. Mark.**

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, [Jesus] sent two of his disciples <sup>2</sup>and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" <sup>4</sup>They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, <sup>5</sup>some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" <sup>6</sup>They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. <sup>7</sup>Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it.

<sup>8</sup>Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. <sup>9</sup>Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! <sup>10</sup>Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

<sup>11</sup>Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

**\*The Blessing of the Palms**

*(The Congregation raises their branches.)*

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**P:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C:** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**P:** We praise and thank you, O God...through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

**P:** Let us go forth in peace.

**C:** **In the name of the Lord.**

**\*Hymn**

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

**No. 344**

*Sung during the procession into the sanctuary.*

*Refrain:*

All glory, laud, and honor to you, redeemer, king,  
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

1. You are the king of Israel and David’s royal Son,  
now in the Lord’s name coming, our King and Blessed One.

*Refrain*

2. The company of angels are praising you on high;  
creation and all mortals in chorus make reply.

*Refrain*

3. The multitude of pilgrims with palms before you went.  
Our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present.

*Refrain*

4. To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise.  
To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise.

*Refrain*

5. Their praises you accepted; accept the prayers we bring,  
great author of all goodness, O good and gracious King.

*Refrain*

**\*Greeting and Prayer of the Day**

**P:** Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

**C:** **Hosanna in the highest.**

**P:** Let us pray together:

**C:** **O God of mercy and might, in the mystery of the Passion of your Son you offer your infinite life to the world. Gather us around the cross of Christ, and preserve us until the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*(The congregation may be seated.)*

**Special Music** “Open the Gates of the Temple” John Ferguson

**First Reading****Isaiah 50:4-9a**

<sup>4</sup>The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens— wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. <sup>5</sup>The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. <sup>6</sup>I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. <sup>7</sup>The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; <sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. <sup>9</sup>It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

**A:** The Word of the Lord.**C: Thanks be to God.****Second Reading****Philippians 2:5-11**

<sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, <sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, <sup>8</sup>he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**A:** The Word of the Lord.**C: Thanks be to God.****The Passion of the Lord according to Saint Mark**

(Mark 15:1-47; bold text to be read by all)

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St Mark, the fifteenth chapter.**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. <sup>2</sup>Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” He answered him, “You say so.” <sup>3</sup>Then the chief priests accused him of many things. <sup>4</sup>Pilate asked him again, “Have you

no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.”<sup>5</sup> But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

<sup>6</sup>Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked.<sup>7</sup> Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection.<sup>8</sup> So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom.<sup>9</sup> Then he answered them, “Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?”<sup>10</sup> For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over.<sup>11</sup> But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead.<sup>12</sup> Pilate spoke to them again, “Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?”<sup>13</sup> They shouted back, **“Crucify him!”**<sup>14</sup> Pilate asked them, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, **“Crucify him!”**<sup>15</sup> So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

<sup>16</sup>Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor’s headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort.

<sup>17</sup>And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him.<sup>18</sup> And they began saluting him, **“Hail, King of the Jews!”**<sup>19</sup> They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him.<sup>20</sup> After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

<sup>21</sup>They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus.<sup>22</sup> Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull).<sup>23</sup> And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it.<sup>24</sup> And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

<sup>25</sup>It was nine o’clock in the morning when they crucified him.<sup>26</sup> The inscription of the charge against him read, “The King of the Jews.”

<sup>27</sup>And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left.<sup>29</sup> Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, **“Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days,**<sup>30</sup> **save yourself, and come down from the cross!”**<sup>31</sup> In the same

way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, **“He saved others; he cannot save himself.”** <sup>32</sup> **Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.”** Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

*All who are able are asked to stand.*

<sup>33</sup>When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. <sup>34</sup>At three o’clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” <sup>35</sup>When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, **“Listen, he is calling for Elijah.”** <sup>36</sup>And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, **“Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.”** <sup>37</sup>Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. <sup>38</sup>And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. <sup>39</sup>Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, **“Truly this man was God’s Son!”**

<sup>40</sup>There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. <sup>41</sup>These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

<sup>42</sup>When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, <sup>43</sup>Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. <sup>44</sup>Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. <sup>45</sup>When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. <sup>46</sup>Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. <sup>47</sup>Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

**P:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C:** Praise to you, O Christ.

**Sermon**

Pastor Paige G. Evers

**\*Hymn of the Day**

“Ah, Holy Jesus”

**No. 349**

**\*Prayers of Intercession**

**P:** Hear us, O God,           **C:** Your mercy is great.

**\*The Lord’s Prayer** (*Prayed together*)

**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.**

**\*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 Look”

Choir

*“I saw one hanging on a tree in agony and blood,  
who fixed his loving eyes on me as near His cross I  
stood. And never till my dying breath will I forget  
that look. It seemed to charge me with His death,  
though not a word He spoke. My conscience felt and  
owned the guilt, and plunged me in despair. I saw  
my sins His blood had spilt, and helped to nail him  
there. But with a second look he said, “I freely all  
forgive. This blood is for your ransom paid. I died  
that you might live.”*

**\*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.

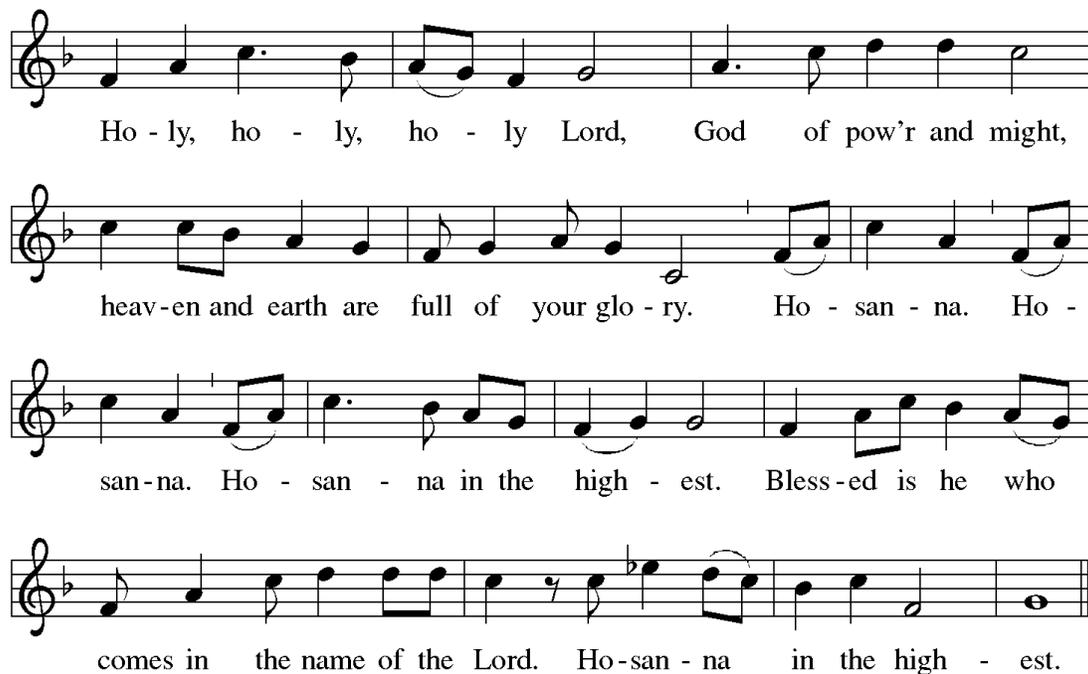
**C:** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C:** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**\*Proper Preface**

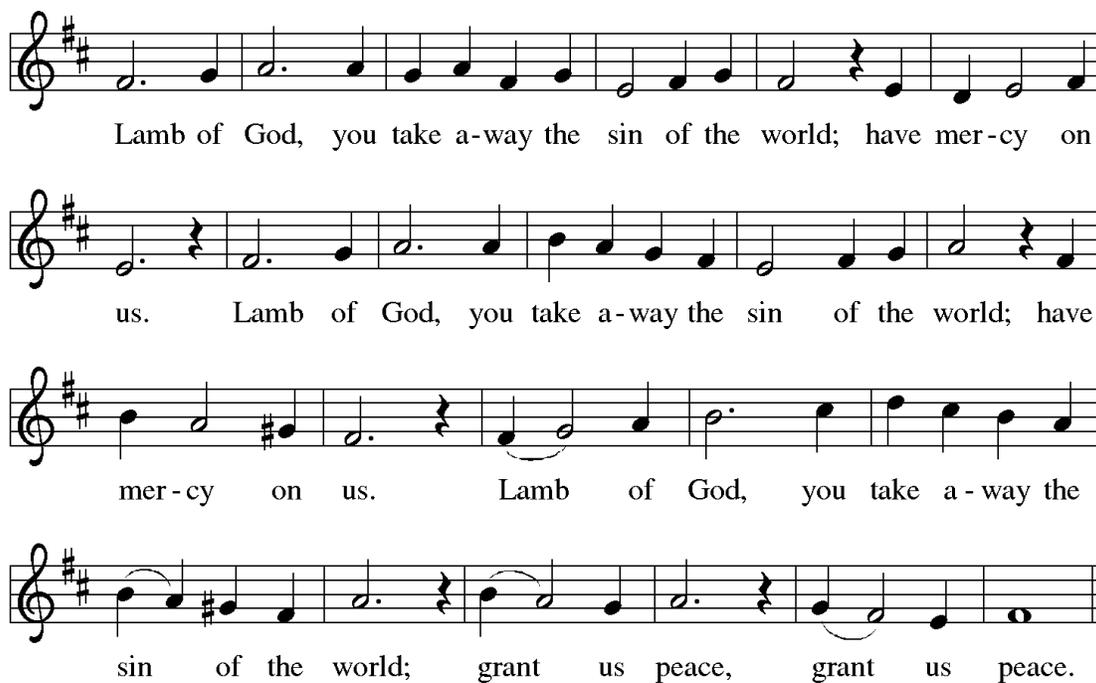
### \*Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. 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. 335, "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross;" No. 328, "Restore in Us, O God;" No. 351 " O Sacred Head, Now Wounded; No. 353 "Were You There"

**\*Post-Communion Blessing**

**\*Post-Communion Prayer**

**\*Benediction**

**\*Sending Hymn**      "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"      **No. 338**

**\*Dismissal**

**Postlude**

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*Thank you to our KIDS Inc. students who prepared  
the palms for our service today.*

*Thank you to Susan, Zach, and Hilary Emory for  
the decorative potted palms around the altar.*

## THIS WEEK AT REFORMATION

Today	8:30 am	Worship Service
	9:45 am	Fellowship & Bible Study
	11:00 am	Worship Service
Wednesday	6:00 pm	Bell Choir
	7:00 pm	Choir
Thursday	7:30 pm	Maundy Thursday Service
Friday	noon	Spoken Good Friday Service
	7:30 pm	Good Friday Service
Saturday	7:00 pm	Service of Light
	7:30 pm	Decorating Sanctuary
Next Sunday	8:30 am	Worship Service
	9:45 am	Coffee Fellowship
	11:00 am	Worship Service

## SERVING TODAY

<b>March 24</b>	<b>8:30</b>	<b>11:00</b>
Usher	Karolyn Hayes & Noah McDougall	Tim & Cheryl Altares
Lay Reader	Shannon Pencek	Joy Rowe
Worship Assistant	Pamela Curnock	Kristin Schlegel
Acolyte	Connor Pencek	Soren Evers
Healing Prayer		Diane Massey
Altar Guild	Carol Whyte	Debbie Bryant-Davis
Live Stream Operator	Jeremy & Eli Rakow	
Fellowship Host	Melissa Miller	

**SERVING THIS WEEK (at 7:30 pm)**

**Maundy Thursday**

Usher	Soren Evers
Lay Reader	Eric Valentine
Worship Assistant	Trish Boyer
Altar Guild	Pam Curnock
Live Stream Operator	Scott Rainville

**Good Friday**

Usher	Joan VanGorder
Lay Reader	Mickey Chaffinch
Live Stream Operator	Kristin Schlegel

**SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (EASTER SUNDAY)**

<b>March 31</b>	<b>8:30</b>	<b>11:00</b>
Usher	Al & Karen Stark	Ed Huey
Lay Reader	Matt Pencek	Kristin Schlegel
Worship Assistant	Ken Newell	Trish Boyer
Acolyte	Lexi Caccamise	Soren Evers
Healing Prayer	Sandi Shea	Maynard Gregory
Altar Guild	Carol Whyte & Janice Weiner	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Live Stream Operator	Sigrid Evers	
Fellowship Host	Lisa Caccamise	

*Thank you to all of our Parish Workers for leading our services during these most holy days of the Church year!*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Holy Saturday Service & Help Needed:** This Saturday, March 30, we will gather for a brief but powerful “Service of Light” for Holy Saturday. This service focuses on the mystery of Christ’s passing from death into resurrection, and draws us into the heart of the Gospel. We will renew our baptismal vows and hear some of the great stories of God’s saving power from the Old Testament. Following the service, at 7:30, we will place the Easter flowers around the altar and replace all of the decorations removed at the end of the Maundy Thursday service.

**Invite your friends!** We have blank copies of the Easter invitation postcards that were mailed to our area available in the narthex. Take some and give them to family or friends as an invitation to come with you to worship on Easter! Please pray that many visitors would come to hear the good news of Christ’s love this Easter.

**New Ministry! Dinner Fellowship Groups** will be starting at Reformation in April. We have many members who live outside of Milford, and we want you to have a chance to get to know others who live near you. Dinner Fellowship Groups will be hosted in homes once a month. The focus will be the meal and fellowship, with a couple of “get to know you” questions offered by the group’s coordinator. The group can decide when and where to meet, and the coordinator will send out the details to everyone. Check out the table in the Narthex to see the groups and sign up, and you can offer to host or serve as a coordinator as well. Friends from outside Reformation are welcome to come and get to know the warmth and hospitality of a church community. Please speak with Pastor Paige or Pastor Eric with any questions.

**From the Christian Service Committee:** The CSC is collecting for victims of domestic violence during the month of March. They can use the following items: gas or Walmart gift cards, twin size sheets and blankets, bed pillows, baby wipes, bath towels, wash cloths, pajamas, duffle bags, and suitcases. Any financial donations can be made online at <https://peoplesplace2.com/ways-to-give/>

**Women’s Group Meeting:** The Women of the ELCA (WELCA) will meet on Thursday, April 4th at 1:00 PM at the Church Annex. All women of the church are welcome! Please join us for Bible study, business, and

fellowship. It's a great way to spend time with other Reformation women.

**Newspaper Donations Requested:** Kids Inc., our day care ministry, will be making floral decorations for their room with newspapers. If you have any newspapers, we would appreciate the donation. There will be a collection bin in the narthex. Thank you!

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

Save the date for **Vacation Bible School** for families to attend together: June 17-20 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. each night. We'll be going to "Hometown Nazareth: Where Jesus Was a Kid" for our VBS theme this year! Please join us with your children and grandchildren, friends and neighbors! To volunteer at VBS (middle schoolers, high schoolers, and adults), please contact Pastor Paige.

**Electronic Giving:** Did you know that when you give electronically, Reformation is charged a fee? When you give at [www.rlcmilford.com/give](http://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](mailto:pr.eric@reformation-lutheran.net). It's a great way to keep up with what's going on at Reformation.

**Happy Birthday to:** Bob Rowe today; Mark Nauman on the 25th, and Kathy Hamstead and Ralph Willis on the 29th. **Happy Anniversary to:** Jay & Mary K. Konesey on the 31st.

**Holy Week at Reformation**

***March 28: Maundy Thursday***

Worship Service at 7:30 pm  
*with individual forgiveness & foot washing*

***March 29: Good Friday***

Spoken Service at 12:00 pm  
Seven Last Words/Tenebrae Service at 7:30 pm  
*with reflections on the last words of Jesus by guest pastors*

***March 30: Easter Vigil***

Service of Light at 7:00 pm  
Preparation of Sanctuary at 7:30 pm

***March 31: Easter Sunday Celebration***

Worship Service at 8:30 & 11:00 am  
Coffee Fellowship at 9:45 am