

April 14, 2024

Third Sunday of Easter

REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

613 Lakeview Avenue

Milford, Delaware, 19963



Phone: 302-422-9117

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

The Third Sunday of Easter

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.

Announcements

Prelude

Linda Hansen

Confession and Forgiveness

P: We gather... Most merciful God:

C: We confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name, now and forever. Amen.

P: ...in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn "Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!" No.383

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 (*In unison*)

"This Is the Feast"



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain




This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray...

C: Amen.

Children's Sermon

First Reading

Acts 3:12-19

¹²When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? ¹³The God of Abraham, the

God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. ¹⁷“And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 4 (read in unison)

¹Answer me when I call, O God of my right! You gave me room when I was in distress. Be gracious to me and hear my prayer.

²How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame? How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies?

³But know that the LORD has set apart the faithful for himself; the LORD hears when I call to him.

⁴When you are disturbed, do not sin; ponder it on your beds, and be silent.

⁵Offer right sacrifices and put your trust in the LORD.

⁶There are many who say, “O that we might see some good! Let the light of your face shine on us, O LORD!”

⁷You have put gladness in my heart more than when their grain and wine abound.

⁸I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety.

Second Reading

1 John 3:1-7

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do

know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³ And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. ⁴ Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵ You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶ No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷ Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel

Luke 24:36b-48

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 24th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ³⁷ They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹ While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate in their presence. ⁴⁴ Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah

is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Eric W. Evers

***Hymn of the Day** “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less” **No.597**

***Prayers of Intercession**

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

***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

Special Music

8:30

“Amazing Grace” (Choir)

11:00

***Offertory**

"Create in Me a Clean Heart"

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.522. ,“As We Gather at Your Table”
No. 469, “By Your Hand You Feed Your People;” No.835 , “All
Creatures, Worship God Most High!” No.470 , “Draw Us in the
Spirit’s Tether”

***Post-Communion Blessing**

***Post-Communion Prayer**

***Benediction**

***Sending Hymn** “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ” **No.674**

***Dismissal**

Postlude

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THIS WEEK AT REFORMATION

| | | |
|-------------|----------|------------------------------------|
| Today | 8:30 am | Worship Service |
| | 9:45 am | New Members’ Class & Fellowship |
| | 11:00 am | Worship Service |
| Tuesday | 2:30 pm | Kids’ Inc. Chapel |
| | 7:00 pm | Church Council |
| Wednesday | 7:00 pm | Worship & Music Committee |
| Thursday | 7:00 pm | Choir |
| Next Sunday | 8:30 am | Worship Service |
| | 9:45 am | New Members’ Class & Fellowship |
| | 11:00 am | Worship Service |
| | 5:00 pm | Youth Group (Annex) |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Members' Class Starting TODAY: Are you interested in learning more about Reformation? On April 14 through April 28, we will have a New Members Class during the Sunday morning Bible study hour (9:45am). Please speak with Pastor Eric or Pastor Paige if you have any questions.

Reformation's Lexi Caccamise will be performing in the ice show, "When You Wish Upon a Star," a Disney-themed show, on Friday 4/19 at 6 pm and Sat 4/20 at 1 pm and 5 pm at Centre Ice Arena in Harrington. Tickets are \$10. <https://www.delawarestatefair.com/centre-general-information>

High School Youth Group meets next Sunday, April 21 from 5-7 pm in the Annex. We have dinner together, conversations about faith, games, and more. All high schoolers are invited!

WELCA Lunch: Guess who's turning 68 in May. Reformation's Women of the ELCA (WELCA) that's who. Please join us at the Surf & Turf restaurant in Milford on May 2 at noon as we celebrate our 68th Birthday. All Reformation ladies are invited to attend. RSVP by April 30 by signing up on the sign-up sheet found on the bulletin board across from the kitchen or by contacting Cheryl Altares at 717-805-9932. We look forward to seeing you. Attendees will pay for their own lunch, but birthday cake will be provided by WELCA.

Campfire Night All ages are invited to come to church on Saturday, May 4 at 7 pm for a fun night outdoors around a fire. Bring your own chair and enjoy S'mores, fellowship, and fun.

The Christian Service Committee is doing a clothing drive during the month of April for the clients of Brandywine Counseling & Community Services. New or gently used donations will be accepted every Sunday in the narthex. BCCS needs spring and summer clothing. The following items are requested for men and women: jeans, t-shirts, shirts, hoodies, shoes, and washcloths.

Children's Fidget Bags: We welcome all ages to worship! To help our youngest worshipers remain fully present, we invite you to pick up one of our "fidget bags" for the service. They are found in the Narthex, and they are designed for three age groups. Each one has a variety of quiet activities for the children to play with and enjoy during worship. Please return the bag when you leave, and it will be refreshed for the next service. Thank you to Kristin Schlegel and Soren Evers for creating these bags!

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, please contact Pastor Paige.

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 is a collection bin in the narthex. Thank you!

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: Mary Deeter on April 14, Christopher Pope on April 18 & Carol Petersen on April 19. **Happy Anniversary to:** Robert & Joan VanGorder on April 14

SERVING TODAY

| April 14 | 8:30 | 11:00 |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Usher | Jeff Lockard | Tim & Cheryl Altares |
| Lay Reader | Shannon Pencek | Lisa Caccamise |
| Worship Assistant | Kristin Schlegel | Todd Hannah |
| Acolyte | Connor Pencek | |
| Healing Prayer | Dianna Smith | Joy Rowe |
| Altar Guild | Carol Whyte | Janice Piatkowski |
| Live Stream Operator | Scott Rainville & Emerick Miller | |
| Fellowship Host | Sandi Shea | |

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY

| April 21 | 8:30 | 11:00 |
|----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Usher | Soren Evers & Noah McDougall | <i>Volunteer Needed</i> |
| Lay Reader | Chris Antonik | Susan Emory |
| Worship Assistant | Ken Newell | Todd Hannah |
| Acolyte | | Lexi Caccamise |
| Healing Prayer | Sandi Shea | Maynard Gregory |
| Altar Guild | Janice Weiner | Lisa Caccamise |
| Live Stream Operator | Sigrid Evers | |
| Fellowship Host | Karen Oldland | |