

April 21, 2024

Fourth 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 Fourth 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.

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 4:5-12

⁵The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst,

they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?”⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders,⁹ if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed,¹⁰ let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead.¹¹ This Jesus is ‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.’¹² There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23 (read in unison)

¹The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.² He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;³ he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name’s sake.⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me.⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

Second Reading

1 John 3:16-24

¹⁶We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another.¹⁷ How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?¹⁸ Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.¹⁹ And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him.²⁰ whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.²¹ Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God;²² and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.²³ And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.²⁴ All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

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

John 10:11-18

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 10th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said,] ¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Eric W. Evers

***Hymn of the Day**

“We Give Thee but Thine Own ”

No. 686

***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	“Amazing Grace” (Choir)	8:30
	Special Music	11:00

Mr. Ferguson’s solo this morning (11:00), The Lord is Risen, is a recitative and aria from the oratorio, The Light of the World, by Sir Arthur Sullivan in 1873. It is the role of the angel at the tomb speaking to those who came on the first Easter morning.

***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.

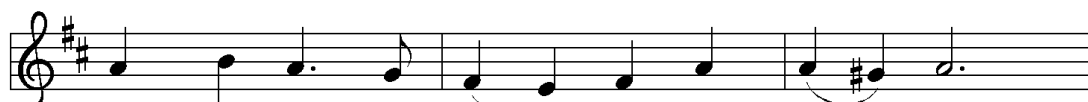
C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***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. 531, "The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing;" No. 484, "You Satisfy the Hungry Heart;" No. 778, "The Lord's My Shepherd;" No. 389, "Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing"

Post-Communion Blessing

The congregation responds Amen.

*Post-Communion Prayer

The congregation responds Amen.

*Benediction

*Sending Hymn "God Be with You Till We Meet Again" **No. 536**

*Dismissal

Postlude

Thank you to Jacob Truitt for playing bass guitar today

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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
	5:00 pm	Youth Group
Tuesday	7:00 pm	Children's Ministry Meeting
Wednesday	7:00 pm	Confirmation Class
	7:00 pm	Evangelism Committee
Thursday	6:00 pm	Bell Choir
	7:00 pm	Choir
Next Sunday	8:30 am	Worship Service
	9:45 am	New Members' Class & Fellowship
	11:00 am	Worship Service

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Members' Class Our 3-week new members' class continues today between services at 9:45. If you are interested in learning more about the mission and ministry of Reformation, we encourage you to join us! Existing members are also encouraged to attend in order to meet new members and help reflect on our life together as a congregation.

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

High School Youth Group meets this evening 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 Anniversary to: Jeremy & Loretta Rakow on 4/25.

SERVING TODAY

April 21	8:30	11:00
Usher	Soren Evers & Noah McDougall	Bill Vendetti
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	

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY

April 28	8:30	11:00
Usher	Soren Evers & Noah McDougall	Bill Vendetti
Lay Reader	Jeff Lockard	Rod Kopp
Worship Assistant	Chris Antonik	Trish Boyer
Acolyte		
Healing Prayer		
Altar Guild	Janice Weiner	Debbie Bryant-Davis
Live Stream Operator	Kristin Schlegel	
Fellowship Host	Lisa Caccamise	