

May 28, 2023
Pentecost Sunday

10:00 AM

REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH
613 Lakeview Avenue
Milford, Delaware, 19963



Phone: 302-422-9117

www.rlcmilford.com

Fax: 302-422-9184

Email: office@reformation-lutheran.net

Office hours (*Closed holidays*):

9:00am-3:30pm, Monday–Friday

Pat Sparks

Administrative Assistant

Gail Kelso

Director of Music / Organist

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

Pastors

Pentecost Sunday

10:00 am service

You can find videos of this Sunday's service and our past services (along with downloadable bulletins) at www.rlc MILFORD.COM/CONNECT. Audio-only recordings of the readings and sermon are available at <http://reformation-lutheran.net/sermons>. Share these with your friends and family on social media so we can touch more lives with God's Word!

Please silence cell phones 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.

The Mission of Reformation Lutheran Church is to:

Invite our neighbors as Jesus invites us.

Engage in a community of graceful discipleship.

Equip our members to grow in faith and ministry.

Embody the love of Jesus in our world.

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, to whom all hearts are open, all desires are known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the forgiving and healing power of your Holy Spirit, so that we may reflect your glory as we grow in holiness and faith, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and in him, we are freed from sin and death. His Holy Spirit renews us and leads us into life. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

***Gathering Hymn**

“Spirit of Gentleness”

No. 396

***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** “He is Exalted”

Twila Paris

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high; I will praise Him.
He is exalted, forever exalted, and I will praise His name!
He is the Lord; forever His truth shall reign.
Heaven and earth rejoice in His holy name.
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high.

***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

Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. ⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” ¹²All were amazed and

perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?”¹³ But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵ Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. ¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹ And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. ²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day. ²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 12:3-13

³ Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says “Let Jesus be cursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit. ⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation “Alleluia”**

Traditional Melody

Alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia, alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia, alleluia.

***Gospel**

John 20:19-23

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Eric W. Evers

***Hymn of the Day** “Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling”

No. 582

***Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***Prayers of Intercession**

A: Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

***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.

The ministers and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Collection of the Offering

Musical Offering “Come Down, Lord” by Stan Pethel

*“Come down, Lord; dwell among us today.
Come down, Lord; send your Spirit, O Lord, we pray.
We are gathered in your name, Lord, we are here to lift you up.
We are praising who you are, Lord, you’re the Life that fills our
cup.
We’re believing in all you’ve taught us, as we live from day to day;
we are asking for your blessing, and as one we come to say;
won’t you come down, Lord.”*

***Offertory** “Shout to the Lord” **No. 821**

My Jesus, my Savior,
Lord, there is none like you.
All of my days I want to praise
the wonders of your mighty love.
My comfort, my shelter,
tower of refuge and strength;
let ev'ry breath, all that I am
never cease to worship you.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing
power and majesty, praise to the King.
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
at the sound of your name.
I sing for joy at the work of your hands;
forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand.
Nothing compares to the promise I have in you.

Text: Darlene Zschech, b. 1965

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***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”**

Jimmy Owens

Holy holy, holy holy, holy holy, Lord God Almighty.
And we lift our hearts before you as a token of our love.
Holy holy, holy holy.

Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit, Come and fill our hearts anew, Holy Spirit.
And we lift our voice before you as a token of our love.
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit.

***The Words of Institution**

“Spirit Song”

John Wimber

O, let the Son of God enfold you with his Spirit and his love,
Let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul.
Oh, let him have the things that hold you, and his Spirit like a dove,
Will descend upon your life and make you whole.

Refrain: Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.

O, come and sing this song with gladness
as your hearts are filled with joy,
Lift your hands in sweet surrender to his name.
O, give him all your tears and sadness,
give him all your years of pain,
And you'll enter into life in Jesus' name. (*Refrain*)

The Distribution of Communion, Standing, at the Altar Rail

Communion Hymns: “Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading,” No. 401; “Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling,” No. 608; “God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind,” No. 400; “When Peace Like a River,” No. 785

***Post-Communion Blessing**

Congregation responds with Amen.

***Post-Communion Prayer**

Congregation responds with Amen.

Sending

***Benediction**

Congregation responds with Amen.

***Sending Hymn** “The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve” **No. 551**

***Dismissal**

Congregation responds with Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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A Big “Thank You” to the “Bucket Brigade” who came in on Tuesday evening and gave the Sanctuary and Narthex a deep and thorough cleaning. Spearheaded by Roseann Phillips, the brigade included Juana Ortiz, Scott Rainville, Janice Weiner, Soren Evers, Bob & Joan VanGorder, and Marion & Monty Suski. Your time and talents shine through in every nook and cranny in our worship spaces.

SERVING TODAY

May 28

10:00

Usher	Ron Semmont
Lay Reader	Mary K. Konesey
Worship Assistant	Eric Valentine
Acolyte	
Healing Prayer	Diane Massey
Altar Guild	Janice Weiner
Live Stream Operator	Sigrid Evers

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY

June 4

10:00

Usher	Karolyn Hayes
Lay Reader	John Leach
Worship Assistant	Todd Hannah
Acolyte	
Healing Prayer	
Altar Guild	Gary Johnson
Live Stream Operator	Soren Evers

THIS WEEK AT REFORMATION

Today	10:00 am — Worship Service
Monday	Memorial Day KIDS Inc. and Church Office Closed
Thursday	12:00 pm — WELCA Luncheon at Cheryl Altares' home 6:00 pm — Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm — Choir Rehearsal
Saturday	9:00 am — CPR Training
Next Sunday	10:00 am — Worship Service 11:00 am — VBS Meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Growing Young Survey: The Growing Young Team at Reformation has been working the past five months to learn how to more effectively engage with young people and their families. Our goal is to help our church grow and thrive as we pass on faith to the next generation. Part of the team's work is gathering input from our church members. We would love to hear about your experiences and insights, and use them to help discern where God is leading us in this important work.

Please take a few moments to fill out a Growing Young survey for our church. It will take around 5-10 minutes to complete. The survey link is: <https://www.oursurvey.church/rlc> Thank you for your support as we seek to share the love of Jesus with young people and all people at Reformation and in our community!

--The Growing Young Team: Cheryl Altares, Jake McDuff, Kelsey Oldland, Shannon Pencek, Kristin Schlegel & Pastor Paige

The Women of the ELCA (WELCA) will meet on Thursday, June 1 at 12 noon at the home of Cheryl Altares. This will be the last meeting before our summer break. We will start the meeting with a potluck luncheon followed by Bible study and business. Officers for the coming year will be elected at this meeting. The sign-up sheet for the luncheon is on the bulletin board across from the kitchen. All women are welcome. Please join us!

CPR/First Aid Training: It's not too late to sign up for the training offered by KIDS Inc. on Saturday, June 3, from 9 am to 3 pm. This program is at no cost to participants and is open to anyone interested. If you would like to brush up on your training or learn the basics, please send an email to office@reformation-lutheran.net to let us know.

Vacation Bible School for families will be held June 19-22 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Registration is now open at www.rlcMilford.com/vbs. Children of all ages are invited to come and have a blast at our space-theme VBS, and grow in faith with their parents and grandparents and their friends at church!

The Christian Service Committee will be holding a kids food drive during the month of June. The Food Bank of Delaware has a Backpack Program that provides food year-round to children in need for weekends and holidays when school is not in session and federal school meal programs are not available. Backpacks are stocked with kid-friendly nutritious, **easy-to-prepare** food for preparation and consumption at home. They are distributed on Fridays or the last day before a holiday or vacation in a discreet manner at schools. Items wanted include: 100% juice, macaroni & cheese, spaghetti & meatballs, beef stew, ravioli, granola bars, applesauce, and cereal.

SUMMER 'PICK-UP' CHOIR This summer, we will continue with our Sunday morning 'pick-up' choir. On July 2nd, we'll meet in the choir room at 9AM to practice, then sing at the 10AM service. There's no weekly rehearsal, no obligation to sing every Sunday, no robes, no sitting in the choir loft (unless you want to!), no need to have a great voice or even to read music! You just need a willing heart to make a joyful noise!! Give it a try this summer!

Take Me Out to the Ballgame! Join your Reformation friends at a Shorebirds baseball game in Salisbury on Sunday, July 9 at 5:05 p.m. Tickets are only \$10 per person for our group. You can pay cash or make a check out to Reformation Lutheran Church for the tickets. (When you arrive at the stadium, you'll pay \$5 per vehicle for parking). This is a great fellowship opportunity for all ages! Please contact Pastor Paige by June 25 to sign up: pr.paige@reformation-lutheran.net or 302-422-9117.

Children's Bulletins for age groups 3-6 and 7-12 are available on the the Narthex.

Daily Devotional Guide: Every Sunday afternoon, we post a daily guide for Bible readings and reflections, psalms to read and pray, and prayer suggestions. You can find it on our website: www.rlcmilford.com/connect. We also offer a few printed copies in the narthex. We hope you will make use of this spiritual resource to grow in your faith!

Prayer Chain: Reformation has an email prayer chain group that will lift up specific requests in prayer throughout the week. This is separate from the Sunday Prayer List. If you have a request you would like lifted in prayer, please contact the office and let Pat know if you would like it on the Sunday List, the Email Prayer Chain or both. If you would like to join the Prayer Chain group, please speak with one of the pastors.

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, and he will add you to this distribution list. It's a great way to keep up with what's going on at Reformation.

Happy Birthday to: Devon Schlegel (belatedly) on May 21st, Matt Pencek and Audrey Venett today (correct!), Joe Boyle on the 29th, Jan Steele and Amara Venett on the 31st, Brooke Holston on June 1, Jake McDuff, Jeanne Coherd, and John Malkus on the 2nd, and Alex Ortiz on the 3rd.

Happy Anniversary to: Dave & Deb Bryant-Davis and Dan & Florence McGinnis on May 31st.

Spread the word!

Please "Like" Reformation's **Facebook** page for news, announcements, and photos of church events!

www.facebook.com/RLCMilford

Check in and **tweet** or post about what's going on with the hashtag #RLCMilford, or post on Facebook and tag *Reformation Lutheran Church*.

Reformation is on **Instagram!**

Please follow our church's profile: @rlcmilford

Take me out to the Ballgame!

Join your friends from church at a Shorebirds
baseball game this summer!

PLAY BALL

DELMARVA SHOREBIRDS GAMEDAY MAGAZINE

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Delmarva Shorebirds vs.
Fredricksburg Nationals

Sunday, July 9 at 5:05 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 each. You can sign up & give cash or a check made out to "Reformation Lutheran Church" to Pastor Paige.

When you arrive, you'll also pay \$5 per vehicle for parking, at the parking lot entrance.

❖ Sermon Notes ❖