

June 25, 2023

The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 AM

REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Milford, Delaware 19963



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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

The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 am service

You can find videos of this Sunday's service and our past services (along with downloadable bulletins) at www.rlcmilford.com/connect. 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**

“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**

“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.**

Special Music

“This Little Light of Mine”

Vacation Bible School

Word

First Reading

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the ordinances—that the Lord your God charged me to teach you to observe in the land that you are about to cross into and occupy, ²so that you and your children and your children’s children, may fear the Lord your God all the days of your life, and keep all his decrees and his commandments that I am commanding you, so that your days may be long. ³Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe them diligently, so that it may go well with you, and so that you may multiply greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, has promised you.

⁴Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. ⁵You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. ⁶Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart.

⁷Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home

and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. ⁸Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, ⁹and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Romans 6:1b-11

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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 8:12, 31-36

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹²Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

³¹Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?" ³⁴Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell

you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

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

Sermon

Pastor Eric W. Evers

***Hymn of the Day** "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" **No. 815**

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. 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

***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: "O Master, Let Me Walk With You," No. 818;

"I Received the Living God," No. 477; "Children of the Heavenly

Father," No.781; "O Jesus, I Have Promised," No. 810

***Post-Communion Blessing**

Congregation responds with Amen.

***Post-Communion Prayer**

Congregation responds with Amen.

Sending

***Benediction**

Congregation responds with Amen.

***Sending Hymn**

"On Our Way Rejoicing"

No. 537

***Dismissal**

Congregation responds with Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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SERVING TODAY

June 25

Usher
Lay Reader
Worship Assistant
Acolyte
Healing Prayer
Altar Guild
Live Stream Operator

10:00

Carol Benner-Chaffinch
Joyce Nauman
Lisa Caccamise
Lexi Caccamise
Kristin Schlegel
Eric Valentine
Soren Evers

Thank you to Sandie Simmons for filling in for Gail Kelso this morning.

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY

July 2

Usher
Lay Reader
Worship Assistant
Acolyte
Healing Prayer
Altar Guild
Live Stream Operator

10:00

Bill Vendetti
Ron Semmont
Mary K. Konesey

Janice Weiner
Sigrid Evers

THIS WEEK AT REFORMATION

Today 10:00 am — Worship Service (including VBS music)
 11:00 am — Fellowship

Tuesday 7:00 pm — Church Council

Wednesday 6:30 pm — Growing Young Team

Thursday 6:00 pm — Loderhose Committee

Next Sunday 10:00 am — Worship Service
 10:00 am — Rite of Holy Baptism for Halo Zulauf

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to everyone who made “Stellar: Shine Jesus’ Light!”

Vacation Bible School a wonderful experience for everyone! A big thank you to the congregation for your prayers and support!

We had 33 children registered, and parents and grandparents joined us as well! We held VBS in the evenings so families could attend together. We had a wonderful team of 31 adult and youth volunteers who made the week exciting and fun as we shared God’s love. The youth showed amazing leadership skills as they planned and ran the Games Station and the Imagination Station. We heard Bible Stories about Jesus, sang a lot of songs, and enjoyed many different activities to reinforce our theme: “Shine Jesus’ Light.” Each evening we had 65-70 people gathered together in our church to celebrate God’s love!

Thank you to all of our VBS volunteers: Cheryl Altares, Ashley Bullock, Lisa Caccamise, David Krantz, Silvia Martinez, Pastor Paige Evers, Sigrid Evers, Logan Huey, Dawn Guyer, Kelsey Oldland, Soren Evers, Jake McDuff, Dresden Miller, Emerick Miller, Melissa Miller, Connor Pencek, Andrew Racz, Connor Pribble, Noah McDougall, Susie Antonik, Jeanne Coherd, Eleanor Gregory, Gail Kelso, Kjeri Boyle, Lexi Caccamise, Pastor Eric Evers, Erica Ortiz, Barrett Valentine, Eric Valentine, Isabella Valentine, and Shanda Keiser.

Thank you to those who helped get our facility ready for VBS: Kids’ Inc. Director, Mary Lu Wilson, and the Kids’ Inc. staff for room setup and for being extremely flexible with our shared space.

Thank you to Thrivent for an Action Grant for purchasing VBS supplies, and to the Loderhose Trust for funding the Schlabach’s Soft Serve Ice Cream truck for our VBS Party on our last night! Thank you to everyone who helped make VBS 2023 a wonderful experience for all ages so we could “Shine Jesus’ Light” together!

Summer is here! Let's keep things relaxed. Even though summer is a more relaxed time, we still have a lot of ministry happening! We will have multiple Bible study options for adults to grow in faith and get to know each other better. Our Vacation Bible School will provide an amazing chance for families to experience the love of Jesus together. There will be some great fellowship events, Church Music Sunday, and of course regular worship with our summer "pick up" choir. The Growing Young Team is continuing to learn and to work on plans to more effectively engage with young people and their families to help our church grow and thrive as we pass on faith to the next generation.

This summer, Reformation has a lot going on! And, that ministry needs resources. Churches often feel stress in the warm months because of the dreaded "summer slump" in offerings. Leaders have to be focused on cash flow more than on ministry. Anxiety around money crowds out energy for mission.

The Stewardship Committee wants to see our leaders energized for ministry. So we encourage our members to stay current with your offerings during the summer months. Regular giving means a more predictable cash flow. If you have fallen behind on your pledge, catching up during the summer months is a real blessing.

We encourage our members to use the options at www.rlcmilford.com/give, including automatic recurring giving. Remember, this isn't about "dollars and cents" or "paying the bills at church." It's about the resources Reformation needs to do the work Jesus has called us to.

So many people in our community need the grace of Jesus and the love of a Christian community. Your giving will enable Reformation to be focused on providing this ministry all year long. Thank you!

In Christ,

The Stewardship Committee

Karen Oldland, Tammy Mook, Rod Kopp, Pastor Eric

\$\$ Financial Update \$\$ A summary of Income and Expenses for January through May 2023 is posted on the bulletin board across from the kitchen.

Home Bible Study Group This Summer! Beginning July 10, we will hold a new study and a new event! You're invited to be part of a group that will read the book "I Guess I Haven't Learned That Yet" by Shauna Neiquist. The book is available on Amazon as a hard copy and on Kindle. The study will take place at the home of Sandi Shea. Space is limited! There is a sign up sheet in the narthex. We hope you can join us!

Christian Service Committee Reminder: Please bring in your contributions for the Food Bank of Delaware's Backpack program this week. We would like to take everything over to them as soon as possible. Contact Sherry Titherington, pegasus67912@gmail.com, with any questions.

Summer 'Pick-up' Choir will gather next Sunday, July 2nd, in the choir room at 9 AM to practice, then sing at the 10 AM service. All you need is a willing heart to make a joyful noise!! Give it a try this summer!

KIDS Inc.@RLC News: This summer we have added fundraising efforts to the curriculum. Funds raise will defray the cost of the buses for our various field trips this summer. Our **Yard and Bake Sale** will take place from July 10 through July 14. Donations for the Yard Sale may be brought in beginning July 9. Storage is a problem so we cannot accept donations prior to that date. You can help us by donating baked goods, by donating items for the yard sale, by posting flyers for these events where you work and shop, and by stopping by to support these events. The flyers can be found in the Narthex.

We are hoping that by involving the children in these fundraising efforts they will gain a better understanding of how much the field trips cost and we are hoping to also make the trips more affordable for families.

Happy Birthday to: Marv Navarro on the 26th, Ed Daino on the 30th and Pastor John Ranney and Terrance Lively on July 1.

Happy Anniversary to: Jim & Diane Fleming on the 27th and Kevin & Joanna Lonergan and Ken & Sally Newell on the 29th.

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

❖ Sermon Notes ❖

Take me out to the Ballgame!

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



Delmarva Shorebirds vs.
Fredericksburg 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.