

July 9, 2023

The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 AM

REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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 Sixth 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 and Temple Talk (Josh McDuff, Council President)

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**

“Jesus Shall Reign”

No. 434

***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

Romans 7:15-25a

¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

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**

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 11th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁶[Jesus said,] “But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ¹⁷‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’ ¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Eric W. Evers

***Hymn of the Day**

“All Who Believe and Are Baptized”

No. 442

The Rite of Holy Baptism for Malia Angelica Schlegel

***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 minsters and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Collection of the Offering

Musical Offering

Summer Choir

***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: ; “Give Me Jesus,” No. 770; “Softly and Tenderly,”
No. 608; “Have No Fear, Little Flock,” No. 764; “Just a Closer Walk
with Thee,” No. 697

***Post-Communion Blessing**

Congregation responds with Amen.

***Post-Communion Prayer**

Congregation responds with Amen.

Sending

***Benediction**

Congregation responds with Amen.

***Sending Hymn** “What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine” **No. 774**

***Dismissal**

Congregation responds with Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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SERVING TODAY

July 9

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

10:00

Kathy & Norm Hamstead
Sally Newell
Dave Curnock
Lexi Caccamise
Joy Rowe
Lisa Caccamise
Sigrid Evers

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY

July 16

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

10:00

Carol Benner-Chaffinch
Mickey Chaffinch
Mary K. Konesey

Diane Massey
Carol Whyte
Scott Rainville

THIS WEEK AT REFORMATION

Today	9:00 am — Summer Choir
	10:00 am — Worship Service
	10:00 am — Rite of Holy Baptism for Malia Schlegel
	5:05 pm — Shorebirds Baseball Game
Monday-Friday	10:00 am — KIDS Inc. Yard & Bake Sale
Tuesday	6:30 pm — Growing Young Team
Wednesday	6:00 pm — Carole Warrington Memorial Service
Thursday	10:00 am — Finance Committee
Next Sunday	9:00 am — Summer Choir
	10:00 am — Worship Service

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Give By Text: Did you know that you can make a financial gift to Reformation by text message? You just send a text with a dollar amount to (302) 204-1410 and follow the instructions you receive back. However you give, your support matters! Thank you!

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!

Summer 'Pick-up' Choir will gather 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!

The Christian Service Committee is accepting monetary donations online (<https://goodgifts.elca.org/group-gift/reformation-lutheran-church>) or checks made out to “*ELCA Good Gifts*” during the month of July for ELCA Good Gifts. The gift we give will be determined by the amount we collect. Our goal is to raise enough to give a cow. Catalogs with the list of gifts and the impact of those gifts will be in the Narthex. As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we believe that God’s love in Jesus is a gift. ELCA Good Gifts is just one way you can share that love with others. ELCA believes that their partners know their communities best. That’s why they identify the needs and priorities in their communities. The projects have been planned by our partners – meaning that each community receives exactly the support it needs. Your donation will be used where needed most.

KIDS Inc.@RLC News: Beginning Monday and continuing through Friday (July 10-14), we are holding our Yard & Bake Sale at 10:00 am. Your donations of items for the bake sale would be most appreciated. Please bring them any time during the week. Don’t forget to stop by and pick up an amazing deal or two! There will be household items, books, toys, games, etc. for you to choose. We will also be selling baked goods like cookies, brownies, rice Krispie treats, and other finger-type goodies! If you would like to donate for the bake sale, please feel free to do so. 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.

Save the Date for Campfire Night! The next Campfire Night at church will be held on Saturday, August 12 at 7:30 p.m. Mark your calendar now for fun and fellowship!

Our Annual Church Picnic will be held on Sunday, August 20, following the 10:00 am worship service. Mark your calendars and plan to join us for this fun-filled, family day. More details will follow.

Happy Birthday to: Jacob Truitt and Joan VanGorder today, Peggy Tlasek on the 12th, and Heather Konesey on the 14th.

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

*The Rite of
Holy Baptism*

for

Malia Angelica Schlegel

July 9, 2023

10:00 AM

Reformation Lutheran Church

Milford, DE

Presentation

The baptismal party gathers with the ministers at the font. The assembly is seated.

P: In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

The Godparents present the candidate for Holy Baptism:

R: We present Malia Angelica Schlegel for baptism.

The presiding minister addresses the parents.

P: Michael and Kissairi, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your daughter baptized into Christ?

R: We do.

P: As you bring your daughter to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with her among God's faithful people,
bring her to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in her hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture her in faith and prayer,
so that your daughter may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

P: Do you promise to help your daughter grow in the Christian faith and life?

R: We do.

The presiding minister addresses the Godparents:

P: Ryan and Luz, do you promise to nurture Malia in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

R: We do.

The presiding minister addresses the congregation:

P: People of God, do you promise to support Malia and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

C: **We do.**

Profession of Faith

The presiding minister addresses the baptismal party:

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

R: I renounce them.

P: Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

R: I renounce them.

P: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

R: I renounce them.

The congregation stands and joins in confessing the Creed.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: **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.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: **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.**

The presiding minister leads the Thanksgiving at the font.

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 our thanks and praise.**

P: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you. Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

Baptism

Water is poured on the candidate's head three times with the following words:

P: Malia Angelica, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

The congregation responds:

**C: You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized.
Alleluia!**

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your sons and daughters new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain Malia with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

C: Amen.

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross with oil on the forehead of the newly baptized.

P: Malia Angelica, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

C: Amen.

Welcome

A lighted candle is presented to the Godparents with these words:

A: Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

P: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

C: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

The baptismal party follows the pastor as our newest sister in Christ is introduced to the congregation!

About Holy Baptism:

The Lutheran church believes and teaches that in Holy Baptism, God claims us as his own, seals us with the Holy Spirit, and begins a new life in us. We cannot earn these gifts, but receive them by trusting in the Lord Jesus, who commands us to make disciples of all nations, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19).

The water used in baptism symbolizes cleansing, and so points to the forgiveness of sin that is given to us in the sacrament. Whenever we stumble and fall short of God's will, we can remember that in our baptism, the Lord has promised to forgive, cleanse, and redeem us.

The water also symbolizes drowning and rebirth. Saint Paul writes in Romans 6:3-4, "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore 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." Baptism marks the beginning of our new life in Christ. All who are baptized are called to die daily to sin through repentance; in the mercy of Christ, we rise again to a life of faith, hope, and love. In baptism, we are claimed for a life of discipleship, to serve Christ and neighbor and bear witness to God's kingdom of grace, mercy, and truth.

Oil is used to make the sign of the cross on a newly-baptized person. Oil is an ancient symbol of God's blessing and of the Holy Spirit, who is the seal of God's presence in us by faith. The candle that is presented is lit from the Paschal Candle, which represents Christ's presence, showing that the gift of salvation comes from Jesus to us. Families are encouraged to mark "baptismal birthdays" every year by lighting this candle and remembering the gift of God's promise.

Godparents, or sponsors, are traditionally chosen for candidates for baptism. They have the special role of encouraging and supporting the disciple in their life of faith.

*You belong
to Christ, in whom
you have been baptized.*

Alleluia!