

July 23, 2023

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 AM

REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Milford, Delaware 19963



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9:00am-3:30pm, Monday–Friday

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

Pastors

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# The Eighth 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](http://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**

“Christ, Be Our Light”

**No. 715**

### **\*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**

**Isaiah 44:6-8**

<sup>6</sup>Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. <sup>7</sup>Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be. <sup>8</sup>Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

**A:** The Word of the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

### **Second Reading**

**Romans 8:12-25**

<sup>12</sup>So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— <sup>13</sup>for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

<sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup>it is that very Spirit

bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God,<sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

<sup>18</sup>I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; <sup>20</sup>for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; <sup>23</sup>and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

**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 13:24-30, 36-43**

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 13th chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus] put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; <sup>25</sup>but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. <sup>26</sup>So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. <sup>27</sup>And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ <sup>28</sup>He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ <sup>29</sup>But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather

the wheat into my barn.”

<sup>36</sup>Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” <sup>37</sup>He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; <sup>38</sup>the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, <sup>39</sup>and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup>Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup>The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, <sup>42</sup>and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup>Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

**P:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C:** Praise to you, O Christ.

**Sermon**

Pastor Carol Petersen

**\*Hymn of the Day** “O Master, Let Me Walk with You” **No. 697**

### **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  
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**

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: “As the Grains of Wheat,” No. 465; “O Jesus, I  
Have Promised,” No. 810, “Lead on, O King Eternal,” No. 805; “Love  
Divine, All Loves Excelling,” No. 631

### **\*Post-Communion Blessing**

*Congregation responds with Amen.*

### **\*Post-Communion Prayer**

*Congregation responds with Amen.*

## **Sending**

### **\*Benediction**

*Congregation responds with Amen.*

### **\*Sending Hymn** “Lift Every Voice and Sing”

**No. 841**

### **\*Dismissal**

*Congregation responds with Thanks be to God.*

## **Postlude**

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## SERVING TODAY

<b>July 23</b>	<b>10:00</b>
Usher	Tim & Cheryl Altares
Lay Reader	Sandi Shea
Worship Assistant	Trish Boyer
Acolyte	
Healing Prayer	
Altar Guild	Carol Whyte
Live Stream Operator	Scott Rainville

*We are blessed to have Pastor Carol Petersen as our supply pastor today, and we thank her for leading worship and opening God's Word for us!*

## SERVING NEXT SUNDAY

<b>July 30</b>	<b>10:00</b>
Usher	Karen & Kelsey Oldland
Lay Reader	Dianna Smith
Worship Assistant	Eric Valentine
Acolyte	Connor Pencek
Healing Prayer	
Altar Guild	Janice Weiner
Live Stream Operator	Shannon or Jack Pencek

## THIS WEEK AT REFORMATION

Today	9:00 am — Summer Choir
	10:00 am — Worship Service
	5:05 pm — Shorebirds Baseball Game
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!

**Shorebirds Baseball Game Postponed!** Our group is rescheduled for tonight's game at 5:05 pm.

**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.

**Campfire Night** for all ages is coming on Saturday, August 12 at 7:30 p.m. S'mores ingredients and outdoor games will be provided and the playground is available, too. Please bring a chair and come out for a relaxing and enjoyable night with your church family!

Our **Annual Church Picnic** will be held on Sunday, August 20, following the 10 a.m. worship service. Church members are asked to bring a dessert to share. Hamburgers, hotdogs, fried chicken and sides will be provided by Fellowship Committee. We'll have the Blessing of the Backpacks for students going back to school at the picnic, and a bouncy house, too! Plan to come for delicious food and a fun time for all ages!

**Happy Birthday to:** John Ferguson and Marie Simms today, Sally Newell, Serena Waddington, and Donna Wilkins on the 24th, Pastor Paige Evers on the 25th, Tom Cotton on the 27th, Seth Fleming on the 29th, and Dianna Smith on the 31st.

**Happy Anniversary to:** Dan & Andrea McPike today, and Tom & Joann Cotton on the 27th.

## **Spread the word!**

Please “Like” Reformation’s **Facebook** page for news, announcements, and photos of church events!

[www.facebook.com/RLCmilford](http://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