

August 20, 2023

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 AM

REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

613 Lakeview Avenue

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 Eleventh 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**

“All Are Welcome”

No. 641

***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 56:1, 6-8

Thus says the Lord: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed. ⁶And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant— ⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. ⁸Thus says the Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Romans 11:1-2, 29-32

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ²God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. ²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. ³²For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

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 15:21-28

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 15th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon.

²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” ²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” ²⁴He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

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

Sermon

Pastor Paige G. Evers

***Hymn of the Day** “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

No. 759

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 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: “Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing,” No. 886;
“One Bread, One Body,” No. 496; “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say,”
No. 611; “Creating God, Your Fingers Trace,” No. 684

*Post-Communion Blessing

Congregation responds with Amen.

*Post-Communion Prayer

Congregation responds with Amen.

Sending

*Benediction

Congregation responds with Amen.

*Sending Hymn “I Love to Tell the Story”

No. 661

*Dismissal

Congregation responds with Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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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

THIS WEEK AT REFORMATION

Today	9:00 am — Summer Choir
	10:00 am — Worship Service
	11:00 am — Church Picnic
Wednesday	6:30 pm — Mutual Ministry Committee
Thursday	7:00 pm — Prayer Life “Tune-Up” Class
Next Sunday	9:00 am — Summer Choir
	10:00 am — Worship Service & Senior Quilt Presentation

SERVING TODAY

August 20	10:00
Usher	Bill Vendetti
Lay Reader	Trish Boyer
Worship Assistant	Kristin Schlegel
Acolyte	Lexi Caccamise
Healing Prayer	
Altar Guild	Eric Valentine
Live Stream Operator	Sigrid Evers

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY

August 20	10:00
Usher	Steve & Edith Weipert
Lay Reader	Kelsey Oldland
Worship Assistant	Todd Hannah
Acolyte	
Healing Prayer	Kristin Schlegel
Altar Guild	Carol Whyte
Live Stream Operator	Soren Evers

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join us today for our Annual Church Picnic. Following today's service everyone is invited to move over to the Annex grounds where we are serving hot dogs, hamburgers, fried chicken, sides, and desserts, provided by the Fellowship Committee and church members. We will have the Blessing of the Backpacks for students returning to school and a blessing for teachers and educators as they prepare to go back to school as well! We even have a bouncy house and lots of fun for all ages! We look forward to seeing you at the picnic!

Help with Relief for Maui! We have all seen the heartbreaking scenes of devastation in Hawaii from the deadly fires there. Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the Pacifica Synod and other partners to assess the needs of people impacted by the wildfires. You can give online to support this work at <https://community.elca.org/uswildfires>. Or, you can send a check payable to Lutheran Disaster Response with "U.S. Wildfires" on the memo line to:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Gifts given specifically to "U.S. Wildfires" will be restricted to, and used in full (100%) for those affected by wildfires.

Help Our Founding Member Celebrate! Marge Reichhold, who was instrumental in the founding of Reformation Lutheran Church, is turning 100 on September 5! We would love to surround her with love from her church family. She would be delighted to receive birthday cards at 909 West Lane, Milford DE 19963. Thank you for helping to celebrate Marge's milestone birthday.

Prayer Life Tune-Up! We all know prayer is important, in fact essential, for Christians. But how many of us feel truly confident about our prayer life? As the summer draws to a close, you are invited to come on

Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 8:15 on August 24, and September 7 (skipping August 31) to "tune up" your prayer practice. We will learn about some of the rich treasures the Bible offers to guide our prayers and next steps you can take. *Each week will stand by itself, so join us when you can!*

Give By Text: Did you know that you can make a financial gift to Reformation by sending 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!

From the Christian Service Committee: We are collecting school supplies to be donated to the Milford School District. The greatest need is for backpacks.

WELCA NEWS: After a summer break, the Women of the ELCA (WELCA) will meet on Thursday, September 7, at 12 noon at the Church Annex. We will celebrate getting back together with a potluck luncheon followed by Bible study and a business meeting to elect officers and plan our 2023-2024 year. All women are welcome to join us, and we look forward to seeing you on September 7th. A signup sheet for the potluck luncheon is posted on the bulletin board across from the kitchen.

Summer Schedule Extended! We will have only **ONE worship service** on Sunday, September 10, at 10:00 AM. We will return to two worship services beginning September 17.

News from the Choir Loft: The summer choir is still singing on Sunday mornings. Join us at 9:00 to practice then sing at the 10:00 service.

Full choir rehearsals begin on Thursday, September 14th at 7:00 pm. The bell choir will rehearse at 6:00 pm that evening.

Reformation Booth at the Riverwalk Freedom Festival: On Saturday, September 16 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., you are invited to greet visitors to Reformation's booth at the Riverwalk Festival in downtown Milford. This is a major annual festival with over 13,000 visitors! At our booth, we'll have a fun activity for guests and gifts to hand out to the public. We'll also give out information about our church. All ages are invited to serve at our booth. Come and have fun with your fellow church members and visitors to the Riverwalk Festival! Please sign up for a time block on the easel in the Narthex, or contact Dianna Smith (diannasmith55@yahoo.com) or Pastor Paige (pr.paige@reformation-lutheran.net).

Happy Birthday to: Brad McDougall, Jean Boyer, and Ken Newell on the 21st, Kirby Fitzgerald and Jeff Lockard on the 22, Silvia Martinez on the 23rd, and Kelly Racz on the 25th.

Happy Anniversary to: Donald & Janice Piatkowski and Pr. Eric and Pr. Paige Evers on the 26th.