

October 8, 2023

The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 & 11:00 AM

REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Office hours (*Closed holidays*):

9:00am-3:30pm, Monday–Friday

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

Pastors

The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 & 11:00 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** “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” **No. 803**

***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 5:1-7

Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. ²He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. ³And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. ⁶I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. ⁷For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Philippians 3:4b-14

^{4b}If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more:
⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee;
⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of 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

Matthew 21:33-46

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 21st chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³³[Jesus said,] “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country.

³⁴When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷Finally he sent

his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.'³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.'³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him.⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?'⁴¹ They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."⁴² Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'?"⁴³ Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom.⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them.⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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

Sermon

Pastor Paige G. Evers

***Hymn of the Day** "The Church of Christ, in Every Age" **No. 729**

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	Special Music	8:30
	"Feed My Sheep"	Choir 11:00
	"Follow me where I go. Follow me and you will know how to give, how to grow, how to love others so. Feed my sheep, feed my sheep."	

*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: “What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine,” No. 774; “There in God’s Garden,” No. 342; “Jesus Loves Me!,” No. 595; “Day by Day,” No. 790

***Post-Communion Blessing**

Congregation responds with Amen.

***Post-Communion Prayer**

Congregation responds with Amen.

Sending

*Benediction

Congregation responds with Amen.

*Sending Hymn

“How Firm a Foundation”

No. 796

*Dismissal

Congregation responds with Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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SERVING TODAY

October 8

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

8:30

Carol Benner-Chaffinch
Mickey Chaffinch
Dave Curnock
Dresden Miller
Eric Valentine
Soren Evers
Sandi Shea

11:00

Ed Huey
Kelsey Oldland
Ken Newell
Kristin Schlegel
Janice Piatkowski

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY

October 15

Usher
Lay Reader
Worship Assistant
Acolyte
Altar Guild
Live Stream Operator
Fellowship Host

8:30

Janice Weiner
Joyce Nauman
Mary K. Konesey
Janice Weiner
Scott Rainville
Karen Oldland

11:00

Tim & Cheryl Altares
Karolyn Hayes
David Krantz
Joy Rowe
Deb Davis

THIS WEEK AT REFORMATION

Today	8:30 am — Worship Service
	9:45 am — Bible Study/New Member Class & Coffee Fellowship
	11:00 am — Worship Service
Wednesday	7:00 pm — Confirmation Class (Annex)
	7:00 pm — Mission/Vision Team
Thursday	10:00 pm — Finance Committee
	6:00 pm — Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Meeting
	6:00 pm — Bell Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 pm — Choir Rehearsal
Saturday	10:00 am — Blessing of Pets
	2:00 pm — Paul & Joan Dohrn Memorial Service
Next Sunday	8:30 am — Worship Service
	9:45 am — Bible Study/New Member Class & Coffee Fellowship
	11:00 am — Worship Service
	12:00 pm — Fleece Scarf Project
	5:00 pm — High School Youth Group (Annex)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Interested in Joining Reformation?

Beginning today, and continuing on October 15, and 22, our Sunday morning Bible study will be a New Members' Class to help potential members learn more about the mission and ministries of Reformation. As our tradition is, we also strongly encourage current members to come so that they can get to know new members! Making connections with others is the most important thing for people joining a church, so we hope our existing members will attend. If you are thinking about joining Reformation, please contact Pastor Eric at (302) 422-9117 or pr.eric@reformation-lutheran.net.

The next **High School Youth Group** Gathering is Sunday, October 15 from 5-7 p.m. in the Annex. All students in grades 9-12 are invited! The Youth Group is led by David Krantz, Silvia Martinez, Jake McDuff, and Pastor Paige.

Blessing of the Pets: You are invited to bring your animal friends for a Blessing on Saturday, October 14 at 10 a.m. We will gather in the grassy area near the Prayer Labyrinth. This is a fun occasion to meet one another's pets and give thanks to God for their companionship. All animals are welcome!

From the Christian Service Committee: During the month of October we are focusing on keeping the homeless population warm this winter. We will be collecting the following items for the Code Purple shelters: socks, hats, gloves, hand warmers, long johns, t-shirts, wash cloths and hand towels, sheets, backpacks, razors, travel-sized baby powder, foot powder, and deodorant, and razors. Monetary donations made be given at <https://donate.riverpartners.org/give/416419/#!/donation/checkout>.

Code Purple provides emergency night time shelter for our homeless neighbors during the winter months.

Financial Update: Thank you for your generous support of Reformation's ministries. A summary of Income and Expenses for January through August 2023 is posted on the bulletin board across from the kitchen.

Electronic Giving: Did you know that when you give electronically, Reformation is charged a fee? Starting in November, when you give at www.rlcMilford.com/give you will be given the **option** to add an additional 1.9% of your donation to your contribution to help defray some of the electronic giving fee. Thank you for your generous support of Reformation's ministries!

Give By Text: 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!

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.

“Skillshare: Cars, Carbs & Cash” signup is now open! You are invited to attend Skillshare on Saturday, November 18 at 2 p.m.

What is Skillshare, you ask? It’s an opportunity to come and learn practical life skills and have fun with people of all ages. At this first Skillshare session, you can choose to learn how to change a flat tire, check your oil, and troubleshoot other car problems, or how to bake yeast bread, along with how to manage your personal finances. Whether you’re a student just starting to make money, or a retiree figuring out how to manage your finances at your stage of life, you will gain some financial wisdom to take home.

It’s going to be a lot of fun to teach and learn practical skills together and enjoy food and fellowship! This is a new initiative “cooked up” by the Growing Young Team. Bring your family, friends, and neighbors, too! Sign up to attend Skillshare on the poster in the Narthex, or e-mail Pastor Paige: pr.paige@reformation-lutheran.net. Please choose from the car maintenance or bread baking workshop when you sign up. Everyone will attend the financial wisdom session together and enjoy freshly baked bread and other refreshments. Contact anyone on the Growing Young Team with questions about Skillshare: Cheryl Altares, Jake McDuff, Kelsey Oldland, Shannon Pencek, Kristin Schlegel, or Pastor Paige.

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!

Children’s Bulletins are available in the Narthex. There is a version for 3 to 6 year olds and one for children age 7 and up. The usher can help you locate them.

Happy Birthday to: Soren Evers and Al Stark today, Belinda Bahder and Ann Waddington on the 12th, and Annie Marconi on the 13th.

Happy Anniversary to: Chris & Melissa Miller on the 10th, and Bob & Joy Rowe and Monty & Marion Suski on the 13th.

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