

October 15, 2023

The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 & 11:00 AM

REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

613 Lakeview Avenue

Milford, Delaware 19963



Phone: 302-422-9117

www.rlcmilford.com

Fax: 302-422-9184

Email: office@reformation-lutheran.net

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 Twentieth 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** “Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies” **No. 553**

***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 25:1-9

O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. ²For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt. ³Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. ⁴For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, ⁵the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled.

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. ⁷And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. ⁸Then the Lord GOD will wipe

away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.

⁹It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

A: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Philippians 4:1-9

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. ²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. ⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

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 22:1-14

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 22nd chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. ¹¹“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Eric W. Evers

***Hymn of the Day** “Rise Up, O Saints of God!”

No. 669

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 "Peace Be Still" Choir 8:30

"The sky began to darken, the rain began to fall.
Struggling to find assurance, they woke Him in distress,
crying, 'Save us, Lord, or we will surely die.'
He said, 'Peace, be still.'"

Special Music

11:00

***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

Text © 1993 Darlene Zschech/Hillsong Publishing, admin. in the USA & Canada by Integrity's Hosanna!
Music (ASCAP) c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

***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: “Although I Speak with Angel’s Tongue,”
No. 644; “We Eat the Bread of Teaching,” No. 518; “Now We Join
in Celebration,” No. 462; “For the Bread Which You Have
Broken,” No. 494

***Post-Communion Blessing**

Congregation responds with Amen.

***Post-Communion Prayer**

Congregation responds with Amen.

Sending

*Benediction

Congregation responds with Amen.

*Sending Hymn

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

No. 547

*Dismissal

Congregation responds with Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Liturgy elements from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2013 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #46412 and under CCLI License #20916625.

SERVING TODAY

October 15

8:30

11:00

Usher

Janice Weiner

Tim & Cheryl Altares

Lay Reader

Joyce Nauman

Karolyn Hayes

Worship Assistant

Mary K. Konesey

David Krantz

Acolyte

Healing Prayer

Altar Guild

Janice Weiner

Deb Davis

Live Stream Operator

Scott Rainville

Fellowship Host

Mary Lu Wilson

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY

October 22

8:30

11:00

Usher

Norm & Kathy Hamstead

Bill Vendetti

Lay Reader

Matt Pencek

Trish Boyer

Worship Assistant

Lisa Caccamise

Acolyte

Lexi Caccamise

Healing Prayer

Joy Rowe

Altar Guild

Carol Whyte

Gary Johnson

Live Stream Operator

Shannon or Jack Pencek

Fellowship Host

Melissa Miller

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
	12:00 pm —	Fleece Scarf Project
	5:00 pm —	High School Youth Group (Annex)
Tuesday	7:00 pm —	Church Council
Thursday	6:00 pm —	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 pm —	Choir Rehearsal
Friday	6:00 pm —	Wedding Rehearsal
Next Sunday	8:30 am —	Worship Service
	9:45 am —	Bible Study/New Member Class & Coffee Fellowship
	11:00 am —	Worship Service
	3:30 pm —	James & Marconi Wedding

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Interested in Joining Reformation?

This week continues our 3-week New Member Class! If you missed last week, you are welcome to join today. If you are thinking about joining Reformation, please contact Pastor Eric at (302) 422-9117 or pr.eric@reformation-lutheran.net.

From the Christian Service Committee: We are 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.

“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.

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!

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.

Happy Birthday to: Bill Meister today, Kristin Schlegel on the 16th, Joyce Nauman and Matthew Wilson on the 19th, and Kevin Lonergan Jr. and Melissa Miller on the 20th.

Happy Anniversary to: Dave & Pam Curnock today, Vance & Susan Carpenter on the 16th, and Maynard & Eleanor Gregory on the 20th.