

October 22, 2023

The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 & 11:00 AM

REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Milford, Delaware 19963



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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

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# The Twenty-first 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](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**

**“God Is Here!”**

**No. 526**

### **\*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 45:1-7**

Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him— and the gates shall not be closed: <sup>2</sup>I will go before you and level the mountains, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, <sup>3</sup>I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. <sup>4</sup>For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me.

<sup>5</sup>I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, <sup>6</sup>so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. <sup>7</sup>I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the LORD do all these things.

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

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

## Second Reading

## 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

<sup>2</sup>We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly <sup>3</sup>remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup>because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake.

<sup>6</sup>And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, <sup>7</sup>so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. <sup>8</sup>For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. <sup>9</sup>For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, <sup>10</sup>and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

**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 22:15-22

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

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

<sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said.

<sup>16</sup>So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. <sup>17</sup>Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” <sup>18</sup>But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? <sup>19</sup>Show me the

coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. <sup>20</sup>Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” <sup>21</sup>They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” <sup>22</sup>When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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

**Sermon**

Pastor Paige G. Evers

**\*Hymn of the Day**    “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”    **No. 678**

### **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

    "Peace Be Still"      Choir      11:00

    "Peace, be still' and my troubled heart was calmed by  
    His voice.

    He said, 'Peace, be still' and a miracle began by the  
    power of His command. Peace, be still."

**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: No. 581, “You Are Mine;” No. 623, “Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me;” No.782, “My Shepherd, You Supply My Need;” No. 684, “Creating God, Your Fingers Trace”

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

*Congregation responds with Amen.*

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

*Congregation responds with Amen.*

## **Sending**

### **\*Benediction**

*Congregation responds with Amen.*

### **\*Sending Hymn**

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

**No. 705**

### **\*Dismissal**

*Congregation responds with Thanks be to God.*

## **Postlude**

## SERVING TODAY

### October 22

Usher	8:30	11:00
Lay Reader	Norm & Kathy Hamstead	Bill Vendetti
Worship Assistant	Matt Pencek	Trish Boyer
Acolyte	Dave Curnock	Lisa Caccamise
Healing Prayer	Connor Pencek	Lexi Caccamise
Altar Guild		Joy Rowe
Live Stream Operator	Carol Whyte	Gary Johnson
Fellowship Host	Shannon or Jack Pencek	
	Melissa Miller	

## SERVING NEXT SUNDAY

### October 29

Usher	8:30	11:00
Lay Reader	Ron Semmont	Steve & Edith Weipert
Worship Assistant	Sandi Shea	Dianna Smith
Acolyte	Pam Curnock	
Healing Prayer	Dresden Miller	Kristin & Kailani Schlegel
Altar Guild	Janice Weiner	Maynard Gregory
Live Stream Operator	Scott Rainville	Janice Piatkowski
Fellowship Host	Melissa Miller	

## THIS WEEK AT REFORMATION

Today	8:30 am	—	Worship Service
	9:45 am	—	Coffee Fellowship
	11:00 am	—	Worship Service
	3:30 pm	—	James & Marconi Wedding
Tuesday	11:00 am	—	Skillshare Planning Team
	2:45 pm	—	KIDS Inc. Chapel
Wednesday	7:00 pm	—	Confirmation Class (Annex)
Thursday	6:00 pm	—	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 pm	—	Choir Rehearsal
Next Sunday (Reformation Sunday)	8:30 am	—	Worship Service
	9:45 am	—	Coffee Fellowship
	11:00 am	—	Worship Services
	5:00 pm	—	High School Youth Group (Annex)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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>.

**WELCA:** The Women of the ELCA will hold its November meeting on Thursday, November 2, at 1:00 PM at the Church Annex. We will be collecting food for the Milford Food Pantry. If you are able, please bring one of these items to the meeting: 1lb bags of brown rice, cereal (preferably non-sugary), chunky soups (stick to chicken and beef), and shelf-stable milk. All women are welcome. Please join us for Bible Study, business, fellowship, and refreshments. We'd love to see you!

**“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](mailto: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.

**The Mitten Tree** returns on November 22. Once again, Suzanne Madanat is organizing our Mitten Tree to help provide a little Christmas cheer to older families and individuals in need. She is working with social workers at the Division of Aging and Physical Disabilities so we can provide gifts for about 50 families. More information will be available in the next few weeks. Thank you for your generous response to this program over the years.

**Financial Update:** Thank you for your generous support of Reformation's ministries. A summary of Income and Expenses for January through September 2023 and the 3rd quarter budget are 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](http://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](mailto: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.

**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:** Ashley Ruff and Sigrid Evers today, Nancy Lockard on the 24th, Tia Mallard on the 25th, Connor Pencek on the 26th, and Tara Pritchett on the 27th.

**Happy Anniversary to:** Jeff & Nancy Lockard and Tim & Michaela Stoller today.