

October 29, 2023  
Reformation Sunday

8:30 & 11:00 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

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Gail Kelso

Director of Music / Organist

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

Pastors

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# Reformation Sunday

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

Reformation Ringers

### \*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

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

**No. 836**

### **\*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**

### **Jeremiah 31:31-34**

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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

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

### **Special Music**

Reformation Ringers

## Second Reading

## 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, <sup>2</sup>but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. <sup>3</sup>For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, <sup>4</sup>but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. <sup>5</sup>As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; <sup>6</sup>nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, <sup>7</sup>though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. <sup>8</sup>So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

**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

**John 8:31-36**

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 8th chapter.

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

<sup>31</sup>Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." <sup>33</sup>They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?" <sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. <sup>36</sup>So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

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

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

### Sermon

Pastor Eric W. Evers

\*Hymn of the Day "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

**No. 504**

## **Apostles' Creed (8:30)**

**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.**

## **Reception of New Members (11:00)**

### **\*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

“How Can You Keep from Singing?”

“Come, Christians, join to sing,  
loud praises to Christ the King.  
Let the world rejoice, every heart and voice.  
How can you keep from singing?”

*Congregation, please stay seated and join us in singing “Holy, Holy, Holy” at the end of the anthem.*

### 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 and Dedication of Our Time and Talents**

**A:** Let us pray:

**C:** **We give you thanks, O God, and rejoice in your abundant goodness. As you have poured out gifts on us, accept these offerings of what you have placed in our care: resources, time, and talents. By your Spirit, give us all hearts committed to the work of your mission, and use us and our gifts to bring the blessings of your Kingdom to the world around us; through your Son, 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: Reformation Ringers: "It Is Well With My Soul;" No. 807, "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing;" No. 708, "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love;" No. 860, "I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me"

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

*Congregation responds with Amen.*

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

*Congregation responds with Amen.*

## **Sending**

#### **\*Benediction**

*Congregation responds with Amen.*

**\*Sending Hymn**      "The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve"      **No. 551**

#### **\*Dismissal**

*Congregation responds with Thanks be to God.*

#### **Postlude**

## SERVING TODAY

| <b>October 29</b>    | <b>8:30</b>     | <b>11:00</b>               |
|----------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Usher                | Ron Semmont     | Steve & Edith Weipert      |
| Lay Reader           | Sandi Shea      | Dianna Smith               |
| Worship Assistant    | Pam Curnock     | Todd Hannah                |
| Acolyte              | Dresden Miller  | Kristin & Kailani Schlegel |
| Healing Prayer       |                 | Maynard Gregory            |
| Altar Guild          | Janice Weiner   | Janice Piatkowski          |
| Live Stream Operator | Scott Rainville |                            |
| Fellowship Host      | Lisa Caccamise  |                            |

## SERVING NEXT SUNDAY

| <b>November 5</b>    | <b>8:30</b>      | <b>11:00</b>   |
|----------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Usher                | Ron Semmont      | Ed Huey        |
| Lay Reader           | Mickey Chaffinch | Lisa Caccamise |
| Worship Assistant    |                  | Ken Newell     |
| Acolyte              |                  | Lexi Caccamise |
| Healing Prayer       |                  |                |
| Altar Guild          | Janice Weiner    | Deb Davis      |
| Live Stream Operator | Sigrid Evers     |                |
| Fellowship Host      | Melissa Miller   |                |

## THIS WEEK AT REFORMATION

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Today        | 8:30 am — Worship Service                 |
| (Reformation | 9:45 am — Coffee Fellowship               |
| Sunday)      | 11:00 am — Worship Service                |
|              | 5:00 pm — High School Youth Group (Annex) |
| Wednesday    | 7:00 pm — Worship & Music Committee       |
| Thursday     | 1:00 pm — WELCA (Annex)                   |
|              | 6:00 pm — Bell Choir Rehearsal            |
|              | 7:00 pm — Choir Rehearsal                 |
| Next Sunday  | 8:30 am — Worship Service                 |
| (All Saints) | 9:45 am — Bible Study & Coffee Fellowship |
|              | 11:00 am — Worship Service                |
|              | <i>Daylight Savings Time ends</i>         |

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Sign up now for “Skillshare: Cars, Carbs & Cash,” a fun event for all ages on Saturday, November 18**

What is Skillshare, you ask? It’s an opportunity to come to church on Saturday, November 18 at 2 p.m. and learn practical life skills and have fun with people of all ages. At Skillshare, you can choose to learn how to change a flat tire, check your oil, and troubleshoot other car problems, or how to bake a French baguette, an artisan bread, along with how to manage your personal finances. 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 hosted by the Growing Young Team. 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 the baking workshop when you sign up. Everyone will attend the financial wisdom session together and enjoy a freshly baked French baguette and other snacks. See you at Skillshare!

**All Saints’ Prayer List:** Next Sunday, November 5, is All Saints’ Sunday, when we remember in prayer those who have died in Christ in the last year. If you have someone you would like added to the prayers of remembrance, please email the name (and any pronunciation help) to Pat Sparks at [office@reformation-lutheran.net](mailto:office@reformation-lutheran.net) by noon on Friday, November 3rd.

**WELCA:** The Women of the ELCA will meet on Thursday, November 2, at 1:00 PM at the Church Annex. We are collecting food for the Milford Food Pantry. 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!

**Stewardship Celebration Lunch!** Mark your calendars for Sunday, November 12, when we will have a time of fellowship and celebration after the 11:00 service. A lunch of soup and salad will be provided, and the congregation is invited to share any desserts they would like to bring. Plan to join us as we celebrate God’s mission for Reformation!

**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!

**From the Christian Service Committee:** Thank you to everyone that participated in the Fleece Scarf event. This year the quilt group precut the fabric from the bolts so we were able to get the scarves completed in record time. Thanks to your hard work we were able to make 60 scarves for the men's shelters and 20 scarves for the women's shelters. These scarves will help keep our neighbors warm this winter.

**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.

**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.

**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](http://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!

**Happy Birthday to:** Al Osterholm today, Logan Huey on the 30th, and Sharon Donlin on Nov. 2

**Daylight Savings Time ends next Sunday, Nov. 5. Don't forget to set your clocks BACK one hour and catch some extra sleep!**

Reformation Lutheran Church  
Milford, DE

*Reception of New Members*

*October 29, 2023*  
*11:00 am*

Keith Ayasse  
Stacey Himler  
Helen McFadden  
Kathy McFadden  
Jeremy & Loretta Rakow  
Eli Rakow  
Havalah Rakow  
Karen Schroeder

Invite • Engage • Equip • Embody

**P:** The following brothers and sisters in Christ desire to join our fellowship of faith, and I invite them to come forward as their names are read...

**P:** Friends in Christ: by the call of the Holy Spirit, you have been invited to follow Jesus in a life of discipleship. Living together in the communion of saints, we are called to grow in God's grace, so that as living members of the Body of Christ, we may increase in faith, love, and all the fruit of God's Spirit.

Let us pray. Gracious God, we thank you for these sisters and brothers, whom you have made your own in the waters of baptism. May they continue to grow in faith as they are nourished by your Word and Holy Supper. Let our church support and encourage them, and may they be a blessing to this congregation, so that we may all grow in our obedience and mission. In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

**P:** Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

**R:** I renounce them.

**P:** Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

**R:** I renounce them.

**P:** Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**R:** I renounce them.

**P:** I invite the congregation to stand as we confess our faith, the faith of the Church, together. Do you believe in God the Father?

**C:** **I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**P:** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C:** **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.**

**P:** Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C:** **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.**

**P:** The congregation may be seated. I now ask our new members: will you continue to respond to Christ's invitation to a life of discipleship and share that invitation with others?

**R:** I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

**P:** Will you be engaged in our community of faith, growing in relationships with your brothers and sisters in Christ?

**R:** I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

**P:** Will you seek to be equipped to grow in grace and ministry, so that you can use your God-given gifts in service to Christ and his kingdom?

**R:** I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

**P:** Will you strive, through prayer, worship, reconciliation, love, and witness, to embody the love of Jesus for our community and all the world?

**R:** I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

**P:** And now, to the gathered congregation: inspired by these new members, will you renew your commitment to our mission to Invite, Engage, Equip, and Embody, so that we may all be faithful to the call of Christ?

**C:** **We will, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

**P:** Will you welcome, embrace, and pray for these sisters and brothers in Christ?

**C:** **We will, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

**P:** It is now my privilege and joy to declare you members of Reformation Lutheran Church, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. And may all of God's people say, **Amen!**