

November 5, 2023
All Saints' Sunday

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

Pat Sparks

Administrative Assistant

Gail Kelso

Director of Music / Organist

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

Pastors

All Saints' 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. 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**

“Shall We Gather at the River”

No. 423

***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

Revelation 7:9-17

⁹After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!” ¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²singing, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” ¹⁴I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵For this reason they are before the throne of

God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. ¹⁶They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; ¹⁷for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 34:1-10, 22 (read in unison)

¹I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

²My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.

³O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.

⁴I sought the LORD, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.

⁵Look to him, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed.

⁶This poor soul cried, and was heard by the LORD, and was saved from every trouble.

⁷The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.

⁸O taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are those who take refuge in him.

⁹O fear the LORD, you his holy ones, for those who fear him have no want.

¹⁰The young lions suffer want and hunger, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

²²The LORD redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

Second Reading

1 John 3:1-3

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he

is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

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 5:1-16

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

¹³“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. ¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

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

Sermon

Pastor Eric W. Evers

***Hymn of the Day**

“For All the Saints”

No. 422

***Prayers of Intercession and All Saints’ Remembrance**

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

“Promise Song”

Choir

11:00

“As long as the sun keeps rising
from the east to the west,
as long as the moon keeps glowing
to grace us as we rest, you are my God.
You are my Lord.
You are my Savior, I am yours.”

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. 428, “Give Thanks for Saints;” No.426,
“Sing With All the Saints in Glory; No. 628, “Jerusalem, My Happy
Home;” No. 847, “Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs”

***Post-Communion Blessing**

Congregation responds with Amen.

***Post-Communion Prayer**

Congregation responds with Amen.

Sending

*Benediction

Congregation responds with Amen.

*Sending Hymn “Oh, When the Saints Come Marching In”

- 1 Oh, when the saints go marching in,
oh, when the saints go marching in,
O Lord, I want to be in that number
when the saints go marching in.
- 2 Oh, when the Lord in glory comes,
oh, when the Lord in glory comes,
O Lord, I want to be in that number
when the Lord in glory comes.
- 3 Oh, when the new world is revealed,
oh, when the new world is revealed,
O Lord, I want to be in that number
when the new world is revealed.
- 4 Oh, when they gather round the throne,
oh, when they gather round the throne,
O Lord, I want to be in that number
when they gather round the throne.
- 5 And on that hallelujah day,
and on that hallelujah day,
O Lord, I want to be in that number
on that hallelujah day.

Text: African American spiritual

*Dismissal

Congregation responds with Thanks be to God.

Postlude

SERVING TODAY

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

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY

November 12	8:30	11:00
Usher	Carol Benner-Chaffinch	Tim & Cheryl Altares
Lay Reader	Gary Johnson	Kelsey Oldland
Worship Assistant	Pam Curnock	Trish Boyer
Acolyte		Soren Evers
Healing Prayer	Kristin Schlegel	Diane Massey
Altar Guild	Janice Weiner	Janice Piatkowski
Live Stream Operator	Kristin Schlegel	
Fellowship Host	Sandi Shea	

THIS WEEK AT REFORMATION

Today 8:30 am — Worship Service
(All Saints) 9:45 am — Bible Study & Coffee Fellowship
11:00 am — Worship Service

Wednesday 7:00 pm — Confirmation Committee

Thursday 10:00 am — Finance Committee
6:00 pm — Alzheimer's Support Group

No Choir/Cantata Practice this week

Next Sunday 8:30 am — Worship Service
9:45 am — Bible Study & Coffee Fellowship
11:00 am — Worship Service
12:00 pm — Stewardship Celebration Lunch
5:00 pm — High School Youth Group in the Annex

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Celebration Lunch November 12: After the 11:00 service on November 12, the Stewardship Committee invites you to an all-congregation lunch. Soup and salad will be provided, and you are invited (but not obligated!) to bring a dessert to share. We will celebrate being together and the mission that God has called us to, together as a church family. To help us plan, please RSVP to Pat Sparks at office@reformation-lutheran.net or (302) 422-9117.

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. 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!

From the Christian Service Committee: We are collecting during the month of November for victims of domestic violence. We would like to make pamper baskets for the women at the shelter. We're looking for donated pamper items (facial items, nail products, lotions, journals, pocket calendars, wash clothes, towels) to add to the baskets.

The domestic violence shelters provide emergency shelter in a safe and supportive environment. Advocacy and case management services are also provided.

Christmas Tree Decorators Needed: The Christian Service Committee will be decorating 24 mini-Christmas Trees following the 11:00 AM service on Sunday, November 19. These trees will be given to the residents of *Home of the Brave* in Milford as Reformation's way to share our Christmas Spirit with them. This event is in memory of Rita Kopp. Christmas tree decorators are needed. No special talent is required, just bring your Christmas Spirit. Please plan on joining the CSC in the Fellowship Hall on November 19th to decorate the trees.

The Mitten Tree returns on November 22. This year the gifts will be delivered by social workers at the Division of Aging and Physical Disabilities. There will be 50 adults/households with persons of either advanced age, living in poverty, or physically disabled, again living below poverty. If there is a grandparent in need we will provide gifts for the grandchildren as well. This group of individuals is largely overlooked during the holiday season. Many live in isolation. When the gifts are delivered it will bring an extra visit and Christmas cheer to these folks.

On the tree you will find yellow mittens, with a white mitten attached asking for a name and phone number for a friendly reminder if the gift is not here when it's time to deliver them. Additionally, you will find red mittens for donations to the Pastors' Discretionary Fund, ELCA World Hunger, and the Lutheran Seminary. Checks for ELCA World Hunger and the Lutheran Seminary should be made out to those organizations. Checks for the Pastors' Discretionary Fund should be made out to Reformation Lutheran Church with a notation that it is for the fund.

Some tags contain specific gifts that people have asked for; please wrap these and attach the yellow tag securely so we can ensure it goes to the correct individual. When selecting your mitten please leave the white mitten in the gold box so we can contact you if need be. You may place gift cards in the box with their accompanying yellow mitten. Each mitten is specifically coded to ensure that each recipient receives their gifts.

Gifts may be returned at any time, however, all gifts must be here by Sunday, December 17, to ensure that the gifts are delivered by Christmas.

Please do not hesitate to call Suzanne Madanat at 302-382-6065 with any questions.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship & Pie Social: On Wednesday, November 22nd at 7:30pm, we will gather for our Thanksgiving Eve service, followed by our annual Pie Social! All are invited to bring a favorite pie to share. We hope you will join us to thank God together as a church family for all his blessings.

The Women of the ELCA (WELCA) will be welcoming in the Christmas season at our annual Christmas luncheon. Please join us on Thursday, December 7 at 12 noon at the *Rookery South* in Milton, DE. All women are welcome. Even if you've never attended a WELCA meeting before, this is a great way to enjoy fellowship with other Reformation women. A signup sheet is posted on the bulletin board across from the kitchen. If you have any questions, please call Carol Whyte at 732-927-0231.

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 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!

Children's bulletins are available in the Narthex. There is one for children aged 3-6 and one for children 7 years and older.

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.

Daily Devotions on Hold: The daily devotional guide began as an emergency substitute for in-person Bible studies when, during the pandemic, we couldn't meet. Now that regular church activities have been fully back for a while (even more than pre-covid!), Pastor Eric and Pastor Paige are looking at how we can simplify and streamline these devotions so that they are sustainable to keep up in the long term. We hope to have a new version in time for Advent or early in 2024. Thank you for your patience!

Happy Birthday to: Emmett Venett on the 9th, and Dave Curnock and Chris Miller on the 11th. And a belated Happy Birthday to Karen Schroeder, who celebrated on November 3.

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