

November 19, 2023
Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
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

Gail Kelso

Director of Music / Organist

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

Pastors

Twenty-fifth 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.rlcmlford.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**

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

No. 632

***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

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness.

⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.

⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.

¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 90:1-8, 12 (read in unison)

¹Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

²Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

³You turn us back to dust, and say, "Turn back, you mortals."

⁴For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night.

⁵You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning;

⁶in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

⁷For we are consumed by your anger; by your wrath we are overwhelmed.

⁸You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

¹²So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

***Gospel Acclamation "Alleluia"**

Traditional Melody

Alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia, alleluia.

***Gospel**

Matthew 25:14-30

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 25th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴[Jesus said,] "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground

and hid his master's money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' ²³His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Eric W. Evers

***Hymn of the Day**

"Take My Life, That I May Be"

No. 685

Completion of Estimate of Giving Cards

***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	"Promise Song"	Choir	8:30
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"As long as there's life within me,
as long as I have voice,
My heart will keep on singing
forevermore rejoice.
For you are my God. You are my Lord.
You are my Savior, I am yours."

Special Music	11:00
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Offertory	"Shout to the Lord"	No. 821
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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. 715, “Christ, Be Our Light;” No. 815, “I
Want to Walk as a Child of the Light;” No. 789, “Savior, like a
Shepherd Lead Us;” No. 707, “Lord of Glory, You Have Bought
Us”

***Post-Communion Blessing**

Congregation responds with Amen.

***Post-Communion Prayer**

Congregation responds with Amen.

Sending

*Benediction

Congregation responds with Amen.

*Sending Hymn “Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory”

No. 890

*Dismissal

Congregation responds with Thanks be to God.

Postlude

THIS WEEK AT REFORMATION

Today	8:30 am — Worship Service
	9:45 am — Bible Study & Coffee Fellowship
	11:00 am — Worship Service
	12:00 pm — CSC Christmas Tree Project
Tuesday	7:00 pm — Church Council
Wednesday	7:30 pm — Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service and Pie Social
Thursday	Happy Thanksgiving!
Next Sunday	8:30 am — Worship Service
	9:45 am — Coffee Fellowship
	11:00 am — Worship Service
	5:00 pm — High School Youth Group in the Annex

SERVING TODAY

November 19

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

8:30

Norm & Kathy Hamstead
Shannon Pencek
Dave Curnock
Connor Pencek
Kristin Schlegel
Carol Whyte
Kristin Schlegel
Karen Oldland

11:00

Bill Vendetti
Kristin Schlegel
Dave Curnock
Lexi Caccamise
Joy Rowe
Lisa Caccamise

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY

November 26

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

8:30

Janice Weiner
Ron Semmont
Eric Valentine

Janice Weiner
Scott Rainville
Mary Lu Wilson

11:00

Bill Vendetti
Diane Massey
Lisa Caccamise
Lexi Caccamise

Gary Johnson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Tree Decorators Needed: The Christian Service Committee will be decorating 24 mini-Christmas Trees following the 11:00 AM service **today**. 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 join the CSC in the Fellowship Hall and lend a hand.

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. When you join us for pie on Thanksgiving Eve, bring your kids to make ornaments to decorate the church Christmas tree. Open to children of all ages! We hope you will join us to thank God together as a church family for all his blessings.

Youth Group Next Sunday Night! All High Schoolers are invited to come to Youth Group in the Annex on Sunday, November 26 from 5-7 p.m. for dinner, Bible discussion, games, and youth bonding! The High School Youth Group meets twice a month. Contact leaders David Krantz, Silvia Martinez, Jake McDuff or Pastor Paige with any questions.

Bake Cookies or Serve at the Santa House Cookie Table on Sunday, December 3: Reformation will be offering free cookies to visitors to the Santa House in downtown Milford again this year! There is a signup sheet in the Narthex where you can offer to provide 2 dozen cookies, or serve for an hour at the table on Walnut Street, right outside the Santa House. We'll be hosting the cookie table from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Please see Pastor Dianna Smith with any questions (diannasmith55@yahoo.com). Please save the date to greet visitors downtown and invite them to our Christmas Eve worship services!

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.

To All Quilters and Sewers: This year we have three graduating seniors. We will be busy making three quilts! I'm hoping you will meet me for a SHORT meeting after the 11:00 service on Sunday, December 10, so we can figure out schedules and choose patterns. Please contact Pastor Judy Moller-Gavlick by phone or text (302-466-7245), or email (Mollergavlick@gmail.com), to say you will help! Many hands make light work.

From the Christian Service Committee: During November we are collecting for victims of domestic violence. We plan 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.

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 United Lutheran Seminary. Checks for ELCA World Hunger and United Lutheran Seminary **must** 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.

The Southern Delaware Chorale will be performing, “A Candlelight Concert: Midnight Mass,” featuring such pieces as Messe de Minuit by Charpentier, Wilmington, a Christmas Anthem on the text “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!”, O Nata Lux by Thomas Tallis, Go Tell it on the Mountain arranged by John Rutter, Christmas Day by Gustav Holst, audience sing-alongs and more! Our two Lee Mitchell Scholarship winners, Gina Garcia Perez and Caliana Valesquez will perform solos as well. The concert will take place at Epworth United Methodist Church , 19285 Holland Glade Road, Rehoboth Beach on Friday, December 1, 2023 at 7:30 P.M. and Saturday, December 2, 2023 at 3:00 P.M. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased online at www.southerndelawarechorale.org. Children under 18 are free. Tickets will be available at the door! Credit cards, checks and cash are accepted. Hope to see you there!

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: Catherine Hugues today, Erica Ortiz on the 20th, and Donn Steele on the 24th.

Happy Anniversary to: Norm & Kathy Hamstead on the 22nd and Ed & Alice Daino on the 24th.

***KIDS Inc. and the Church Office will be closed
on Thursday and Friday, November 23rd and 24th
in observance of Thanksgiving.***

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