

November 26, 2023
Christ the King Sunday

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-12:00pm, Monday–Friday

Gail Kelso

Director of Music / Organist

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

Pastors

Christ the King 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**

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

No. 855

***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

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

¹¹For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹²As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. ²⁰Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you pushed with flank and

shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²²I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. ²³I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 95:1-7a (read in unison)

¹O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

²Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

³For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

⁴In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.

⁵The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

⁶O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

⁷For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to

work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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 25:31-46

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹[Jesus said,] “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ ⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you

gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Eric W. Evers

***Hymn of the Day** "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!" **No. 634**

***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.

Please share a sign of peace with those around you.

Collection of the Offering	Special Music	8:30
"Praise and Thanks and Adoration"	Choir	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: No. 662, “Christ Is the King!” No. 434,
“Jesus Shall Reign;” No. 641, “All Are Welcome;” No. 433,
“Blessing, Honor, and Glory”

***Post-Communion Blessing**

Congregation responds with Amen.

***Post-Communion Prayer**

Congregation responds with Amen.

Sending

***Benediction**

Congregation responds with Amen.

***Sending Hymn** “Rejoice, for Christ Is King!”

No. 430

***Dismissal**

Congregation responds with Thanks be to God.

Postlude

SERVING TODAY

November 26	8:30	11:00
Usher	Janice Weiner	Bill Vendetti
Lay Reader	Ron Semmont	Diane Massey
Worship Assistant	Eric Valentine	Lisa Caccamise
Acolyte		Lexi Caccamise
Healing Prayer		
Altar Guild	Janice Weiner	Gary Johnson
Live Stream Operator	Scott Rainville	
Fellowship Host	Mary Lu Wilson	

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY

December 3	8:30	11:00
Usher	Janice Weiner	Ed Huey
Lay Reader	Matt Pencek	David Krantz
Worship Assistant	Ken Newell	Todd Hannah
Acolyte	Connor Pencek	
Healing Prayer	Diane Massey	Joy Rowe
Altar Guild	Gary Johnson	Deb Davis
Live Stream Operator	Soren Evers	
Fellowship Host	Lisa Caccamise	

THIS WEEK AT REFORMATION

Today	8:30 am — Worship Service
	9:45 am — Coffee Fellowship
	11:00 am — Worship Service
	5:00 pm — High School Youth Group (Annex)
Tuesday	2:45 pm — Kids, Inc. Chapel
	7:00 pm — Bible Study
Thursday	6:00 pm — Handbell Rehearsal
	7:00 pm — Choir Rehearsal
Next Sunday	8:30 am — Worship Service
	9:45 am — Coffee Fellowship
	11:00 am — Worship Service
	11:00 am — Santa House Cookies (downtown)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Youth Group Tonight! All High Schoolers are invited to come to Youth Group in the Annex on tonight 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: We 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).

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.

The Mitten Tree is back! Please see the information in the narthex and note that 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," 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!

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!

Blue Christmas Service: Sometimes it can be hard to celebrate Christmas due to loss or grief. Reformation is offering a Blue Christmas service on Wednesday, December 13 at 7:30 p.m. to come together and reflect on God's comforting presence in difficult times. We will sing familiar Christmas hymns, light candles, and receive Holy Communion. The service will be offered in person and online (rlcmilford.com/video).

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: Dakota Cousins and Willow McPike on the 28th, Carol Troisi on the 29th, Mary Lu Wilson on the 2nd, and Tammy Mook on the 3rd.