

December 10, 2023  
Second Sunday of Advent

8:30 & 11:00 AM

REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
613 Lakeview Avenue  
Milford, Delaware 19963



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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

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# Second Sunday of Advent

**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.

***"Being transformed by Jesus so that, through us,  
he is transforming the world."***

Reformation's Mission is to:

**Welcome people to faith. Make disciples. Live what we believe.**

# 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**

**"People, Look East"**

**No. 248**

**\*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 & Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah,” v. 1 & 2

**No. 240**

**\*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 40:1-11**

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” <sup>6</sup>A voice says, “Cry out!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!” <sup>10</sup>See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup>He will feed his flock like a

shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13** (read in unison)

<sup>1</sup>LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

<sup>2</sup>You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin. Selah

<sup>8</sup>Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

<sup>9</sup>Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

<sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

<sup>11</sup>Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

<sup>12</sup>The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

<sup>13</sup>Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

**Second Reading**

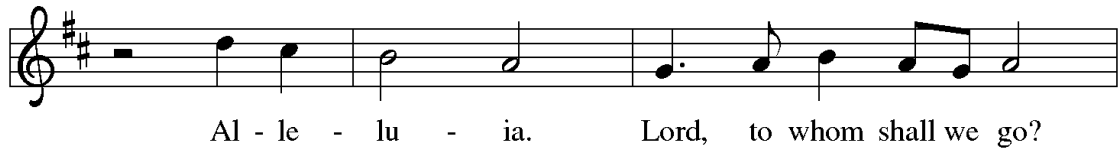
**2 Peter 3:8-15a**

<sup>8</sup>But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. <sup>11</sup>Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. <sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are

waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

**A:** The Word of the Lord.      **C:** **Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation**



**\*Gospel**

**Mark 1:1-8**

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1st chapter.

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

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;

<sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight,’”

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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

**\*Hymn of the Day** "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

**No. 249**

**\*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**

"Wondrous Love" Sigrd Evers & Kelsey Oldland

8:30

"Bethlehem Wind" Choir; Sigrd Evers, violin

11:00

**Offertory** "Prepare the Royal Highway" (v. 1, 3)

**No. 264**

Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!

Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear!

Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:

Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king!

Your king, yet ev'ry nation its tribute too may bring.

All lands will bow before him; their voices join your singing:

Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

**\*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, Holy"**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**\*The Words of Institution**



## "Lamb of God"



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## The Distribution of Communion, Standing, at the Altar Rail

Communion Hymns: No. 250, "Blessed Be the God of Israel;"  
No. 255, "There's a Voice in the Wilderness;" No. 631, "Love  
Divine, All Loves Excelling;" No. 796, "How Firm a Foundation"

### \*Post-Communion Blessing

*Congregation responds with Amen.*

### \*Post-Communion Prayer

*Congregation responds with Amen.*

## Sending

### \*Benediction

*Congregation responds with Amen.*

### \*Sending Hymn

"Hark, the Glad Sound"

No. 239

## **\*Dismissal**

*Congregation responds with **Thanks be to God.***

## **Postlude**

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## SERVING TODAY

<b>December 10</b>	<b>8:30</b>	<b>11:00</b>
Usher	Al & Karen Stark	Karolyn Hayes
Lay Reader	Eric Valentine	Sally Newell
Worship Assistant	Chris Antonik	David Krantz
Acolyte	Dresden Miller	
Healing Prayer		Diane Massey
Altar Guild	Carol Whyte	Janice Piatkowski
Live Stream Operator	Soren Evers	
Fellowship Host	Lisa Caccamise	

## SERVING NEXT SUNDAY

<b>December 17</b>	<b>8:30</b>	<b>11:00</b>
Usher	Carol Benner-Chaffinch	Todd Hannah
Lay Reader	Mickey Chaffinch	Kelsey Oldland
Worship Assistant	Eric Valentine	Ken Newell
Acolyte	Kristin & Kailani Schlegel	Lexi Caccamise
Healing Prayer		Joy Rowe
Altar Guild	Janice Weiner	Deb Davis
Live Stream Operator	Jack Pencek	
Fellowship Host	Sandi Shea	

## THIS WEEK AT REFORMATION

Today	8:30 am — Worship Service
	9:45 am — Coffee Fellowship
	11:00 am — Worship Service
	11:00 am — Santa House Cookies (until 2:00pm)
	12:00 pm — Senior Quilt Meeting
	5:00 pm — Youth Group (in Annex)
Tuesday	7:00 pm — Bible Study
Wednesday	7:30 pm — Blue Christmas Worship (also online)
Thursday	9:00 am — Finance Committee

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  
                         3:00 pm — Decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Bake Cookies or Serve at the Santa House Cookie Table TODAY (under a tent if it's raining):** We will be offering free cookies to visitors to the Santa House in downtown Milford today! Even if you haven't signed up, you are welcome to pass out cookies and Christmas Eve worship invitations 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.

**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 TODAY, so we can figure out schedules and choose patterns. Please attend the meeting or contact Pastor Judy Moller-Gavlick by phone or text (302-466-7245), or email (Mollergavlick@gmail.com), for more information!

The Christian Services Committee is again hosting an "**Advent Reverse Giving Calendar**" to support the Food Bank of Delaware. We're inviting you to add a food item to your very own Advent box each day to **give** a gift to help those with food insecurity in Delaware.

The Calendars are available in the Narthex. We encourage you to post it on your fridge and mark off the days as we approach Christmas, or use it for ideas of the needs of the Food Bank and give as you can. We will have a container in the Narthex to bring gifts weekly through Christmas Eve. All gifts will be delivered to the Food Bank in Milford for their pantry.

**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.

**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 this 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](http://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](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.

**Happy Birthday to:** Karolyn Hayes, today, Trish Boyer on the 11th, Dan McPike on the 13th, Benjamin Lonergan and Janice Piatkowski on the 16th. **Happy Anniversary to:** Al & Karen Stark on the 16th

## ***Advent and Christmas Special Services & Events***

*All 8:30 or 10:00am Sunday worship services and special services are **on-site and online** unless noted*

**Wednesday, December 13th at 7:30pm:**

Blue Christmas Worship

**Sunday, December 17th at 8:30 & 11:00am:**

Reformation Ringers handbells at both services

**Sunday, December 17th at 3:00pm:**

Decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas

**Sunday, December 24th at 10:00am:**

One 4th Sunday of Advent service—Choir Cantata & Holy Communion

**Sunday, December 24th at 4:00pm:**

Christmas Eve Service with young musicians

**Sunday, December 24th at 7:00pm:**

Christmas Eve Service with Choir (in person only)

**Sunday, December 31st at 10:00am:**

One service of Lessons, Carols, and Communion

**Sunday, January 7th, 2024 at 8:30 & 11:00am:**

Celebrating the Festivals of the Epiphany and the Baptism of Our Lord, removing sanctuary decorations after the 11:00 service.

# REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

## ***Christmas Poinsettia Order Form***

**~ 2023 ~**



If you would like to purchase poinsettia plants to decorate the Church Sanctuary for Christmas, please fill out the form below and include it with your payment by **December 17**. Please make checks payable to **Reformation Lutheran Church** with “Poinsettias” noted on the memo line and place in the offering. Cash may be placed in an envelope with your name and “Poinsettias” on the outside. If you prefer, you may give an offering to the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund. A list of dedications will be included in the Christmas Eve bulletins.

Our poinsettia plants are provided by Pepper Greenhouses. Each plant has 5-6 blooms and comes in a 6.5 inch pot wrapped in green foil.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of plants: \_\_\_\_ x \$12.00 each. Total for plants: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation to the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dedicated in <b>honor</b> of: _____ _____
Dedicated in <b>memory</b> of: _____ _____

*Please be sure to pick up your plants on or before Sunday, January 7, 2024 . Unclaimed plants will be discarded.*

**Spread the word!**

Please “Like” Reformation’s **Facebook** page for news, announcements, and photos of church events!

[www.facebook.com/RLCmilford](http://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