

January 7, 2024

The Baptism of Our Lord

8:30 & 11:00 AM

REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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

Epiphany & The Baptism of Our Lord

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.

***"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*

Prelude

Announcements

***Confession and Forgiveness**

P: We gather in the name of the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

P: Almighty God... **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... in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

***Gathering Hymn**

“We Three Kings”

1 We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

Refrain

Oh, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

- 2 Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again;
king forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign. *Refrain*
- 3 Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising, gladly raising,
worshipping God Most High. *Refrain*
- 4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *Refrain*
- 5 Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice;
heav'n sings alleluia:
alleluia the earth replies. *Refrain*

Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820-1891, alt.

***Epiphany Gospel**

Matthew 2:1-12

***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

Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth,²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.

⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Acts 19:1-7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." ⁴Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— ⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

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

Mark 1:4-11

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And 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. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He 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. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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

Sermon

Pastor Eric W. Evers

***Hymn of the Day** "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" **No. 249**

***Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***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	Special Music	8:30
	"We Need a Savior" (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

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***Offertory Prayer**

A: Let us pray:

C: God of mercy and goodness, your generosity sustains all of creation. Accept what we have gathered to be used for the work of your Kingdom. As we come to your table, fill us with your love, so that we might be signs of your presence in a world hungry for grace; 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: #459, “Wade in the Water;” #423, “Shall We Gather at the River;” #311, “Hail to the Lord’s Anointed;” #314, “Arise, Your Light Has Come!”

***Post-Communion Blessing**

Congregation responds with Amen.

***Post-Communion Prayer**

Congregation responds with Amen.

Sending

***Benediction**

Congregation responds with Amen.

***Sending Hymn**

“As with Gladness Men of Old”

No. 302

***Dismissal**

Congregation responds with Thanks be to God.

Postlude

SERVING TODAY

January 7	8:30	11:00
Usher	Kathy & Norm Hamstead	Karolyn Hayes
Lay Reader	Sandi Shea	Todd Hannah
Worship Assistant	Pam Curnock	David Krantz
Acolyte	Dresden Miller	
Healing Prayer		Maynard Gregory
Altar Guild	Carol Whyte	Debbie Davis
Live Stream Operator	Soren Evers	
Fellowship Host	Mary Lu Wilson	

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY

January 14	8:30	11:00
Usher	Al & Karen Stark	Steve & Edith Weipert
Lay Reader	Dianna Smith	June Steenland
Worship Assistant	Chris Antonik	Todd Hannah
Acolyte	Dresden Miller	
Healing Prayer	Diane Massey	Joy Rowe
Altar Guild	Janice Weiner	Eric Valentine
Live Stream Operator	Sigrid Evers	
Fellowship Host	Karen Oldland	

THIS WEEK AT REFORMATION

Today	8:30 am	Worship Service
	9:45 am	Fellowship & Bible Study
	11:00 am	Worship Service
	12:00 pm	“Un-Decorating” Sanctuary
	5:00 pm	Youth Group in Annex
Wednesday	7:00 pm	Confirmation
Thursday	10:00 am	Finance Committee
	7:00 pm	Council Meeting
	7:00 pm	Choir
Next Sunday	8:30 am	Worship Service
	9:45 am	Fellowship & Bible Study
	11:00 am	Worship Service
	12:00 pm	Senior Quilt Meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS

From the Evers family: Thank you to everyone, not only for the generous Christmas gift, but also for all the kindness and support you have shown as we grieve Pastor Eric's father's death. We are so blessed to be a part of this very special church family!

From the Christian Service Committee: The CSC will have its first quarter meeting Sunday, January 7 following the late service. All are welcome.

The CSC would like to thank everyone for their participation in the Reverse Advent calendar. Thanks to your abundant generosity we donated **422 pounds of food** to the Food Bank of Delaware.

Annual Meeting: Reformation's annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28th after one 10am worship service. Keep your eyes open for more details.

Electronic Giving: Did you know that when you give electronically, Reformation is charged a fee? 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!

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: Drew Ranney today; Diane Fleming on the 9th; and Pam Ferguson on the 13th.

