

January 21, 2024
3rd Sunday after Epiphany

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

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

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*

Announcements

Prelude

*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** "I Love to Tell the Story" **No. 661**

*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

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²“Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.”

³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD.

Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across.

⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!”

⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. ¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 62:5-12 (read in unison)

⁵For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him.

⁶He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

⁷On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.

⁸Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.

⁹Those of low estate are but a breath, those of high estate are a delusion; in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath.

¹⁰Put no confidence in extortion, and set no vain hopes on robbery; if riches increase, do not set your heart on them.

¹¹Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God,

¹²and steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord. For you repay to all according to their work.

Second Reading**1 Corinthians 7:25-31**

²⁵Now concerning virgins, I have no command of the Lord, but I give my opinion as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. ²⁶I think that, in view of the impending crisis, it is well for you to remain as you are. ²⁷Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be free. Are you free from a wife? Do not seek a wife. ²⁸But if you marry, you do not sin, and if a virgin marries, she does not sin. Yet those who marry will experience distress in this life, and I would spare you that. ²⁹I mean, brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

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 1:14-20****P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1st chapter.**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." ¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

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

Pastor Eric W. Evers

***Hymn of the Day**

“Arise, Your Light Has Come!”

No. 314

***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

Special Music

8:30

“Find All You Need in Jesus” (choir)

11:00

*“Come, come, He’s waiting now for you. So come, come, find
all you need in Jesus. Come to mercy, come to grace, deep
and wide and endless. Bring your longings to the Cross for
pardon and forgiveness: Find all you need in Jesus.”*

***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: #815, “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light;” #742, “What a Friend We Have in Jesus;” #697, “Just a Closer Walk with Thee;” #539, “Abide, O Dearest Jesus”

***Post-Communion Blessing**

Congregation responds with Amen.

***Post-Communion Prayer**

Congregation responds with Amen.

Sending

***Benediction**

Congregation responds with Amen.

***Sending Hymn**

“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

No. 810

***Dismissal**

Congregation responds with Thanks be to God.

Postlude

SERVING TODAY

January 21

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

8:30

Jeff Lockard
Shannon Pencek
David Curnock
Connor Pencek

Eric Valentine
Jack Pencek
Lisa Caccamise

11:00

Joan VanGorder
Joyce Nauman
Trish Boyer
Soren Evers
Diane Massey
Janice Piatkowski

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY

January 28

Ushers
Lay Reader
Worship Assistant
Acolyte
Healing Prayer
Altar Guild
Live Stream Operators
Fellowship Host

10:00

Ed Huey & Noah McDougall
Matt Pencek
Ken Newell
Connor Pencek
Diane Massey
Pam Curnock & Janice Piatkowski
Scott Rainville & Emerick Miller
Melissa Miller & Mary Lu Wilson (Brunch)

THIS WEEK AT REFORMATION

Today	8:30 am	Worship Service
	9:45 am	Fellowship & Bible Study
	11:00 am	Worship Service
	5:00 pm	Youth Group (Annex)
Tuesday	2:30 pm	Kids' Inc Chapel
Wednesday	7:00 pm	Confirmation Class
Thursday	7:00 pm	Choir
Next Sunday	10:00 am	Worship Service
	11:00 am	Brunch & Annual Meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next week we will have one worship service at 10:00 a.m. followed by Brunch (provided by the Fellowship Committee) and our Annual Congregational Meeting! Please plan to attend to celebrate God's work among us in 2023, elect a new Church Council member, and look ahead to Reformation's ministry in 2024. This is a wonderful opportunity for a delicious meal and fellowship with your friends at Reformation!

Reformation youth performing in a play at the Milton Theater! Lexi Caccamise will be performing in "Charlie & the Chocolate Factory," a student production, at the Milton Theater from Jan. 25-28. There are 2 p.m. matinees and 7 p.m. evening performances. Tickets and more details are available at www.miltontheater.com. Come out to support Lexi and enjoy a night of local theater!

Reformation's end-of-year budget report is posted on the bulletin board across from the kitchen.

Bring Canned Food for our "Souper Bowl"— The Christian Service Committee will be holding the annual Souper Bowl on February 11. There will be a competition between the two teams. Donate a canned/prepackaged food item (pop top cans preferred) and place the item in your team's bin. **Each team will receive one point for each item**

donated. 3 points will be given for Chunky soup and cans of pasta! The team with the most points will be the winner of the Souper Bowl. The items will be donated to the Milford Community Food Pantry.

The Next Skillshare Event is February 10! You are invited to come to a “drop-in” Skillshare event in Reformation’s Annex on Saturday, February 10 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. During this Skillshare event, you can come and learn how to sew a simple project, or bring clothes that need to be mended, and others will help you learn sewing skills. Meanwhile, you can also drop in with your cell phones, tablets, laptops, or other devices and get help with your questions from our youth and adults who are well-versed in technology. Invite a friend to come with you! Contact Pastor Paige Evers with questions (pr.paige@reformation-lutheran.net).

The New ROMEO (“Retired Old Men Eating Out”) Club Invites you! Come join us for lunch, every second Friday of the month, at noon at the Palace Restaurant in Milford. Our first lunch will be February 9th. Space is limited. Just a couple of ground rules: it’s Dutch treat, and no discussion of politics! Contact Maynard Gregory (302-381-4240) for more information.

Rise Against Hunger Serving Opportunity on March 9: On Saturday, March 9, you’re invited to join other Reformation friends in serving at a meal-packing event at Sussex Central High School with the organization, Rise Against Hunger. There will be an assembly line for packing non-perishable food into boxes to be shipped around the world, wherever people are hungry and need to be fed. Please join us and help represent Reformation at this community service project!

Reformation’s High School Youth Group will be serving at the 9:00-12:00 shift on March 9. If you prefer the afternoon, there is a shift from 12:30-3:30 when Reformation folks are welcome to serve. Reformation’s Christian Service Committee encourages you to get involved! **Please sign up on the website listed below for whichever shift suits your schedule.**

If you’d like to carpool to Sussex Central High School from Reformation, please e-mail Pastor Paige (pr.paige@reformation-lutheran.net). To volunteer, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/RAH-Sussex-2024>. There are two three hour packing sessions on March 9: **9:00-12:00 and 12:30-3:30.** This is an event in which adults, children and youth can participate.

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. It's a great way to keep up with what's going on at Reformation.

Happy Birthday to: Brenda Donovan on the 23rd, and Pat Batchelor on the 26th. **Happy Anniversary to** Steve & Edith Weipert on the 26th.