

February 4, 2024
5th Sunday after Epiphany

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

4th Sunday after Epiphany

8:30 & 11:00 am services

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 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.

We have hearing assistance devices available. Please ask an Usher if you would like to use one to help with hearing the service.

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** “We Come to You for Healing, Lord” **No. 617**

*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

Isaiah 40:21-31

²¹Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? ²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; ²³who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. ²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. ²⁵To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. ²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. ²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? ²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. ³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; ³¹but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c (read in unison)

¹Praise the LORD! How good it is to sing praises to our God; for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.

²The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel.

³He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.

⁴He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names.

⁵Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.

⁶The LORD lifts up the downtrodden; he casts the wicked to the ground.

⁷Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre.

⁸He covers the heavens with clouds, prepares rain for the earth, makes grass grow on the hills.

⁹He gives to the animals their food, and to the young ravens when they cry.

¹⁰His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner;

¹¹but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.

^{20c}Praise the LORD!

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

¹⁶If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel!

¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

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 1:29-39

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁹As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. ³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, “Everyone is searching for you.” ³⁸He answered, “Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.” ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Paige G. Evers

***Hymn of the Day**

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

No. 798

***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 "A Lord-Built House" (Choir) 8:30

"I wanna live in a Lord built house; unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain."

Special Music 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: #773, "Precious Lord, Take My Hand;" #860,
"I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me;" #787, "On Eagle's Wings;" #858
"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

***Post-Communion Blessing**

Congregation responds with Amen.

***Post-Communion Prayer**

Congregation responds with Amen.

Sending

***Benediction**

Congregation responds with Amen.

***Sending Hymn**

"Oh, Worship the King"

No. 842

***Dismissal**

Congregation responds with Thanks be to God.

Postlude

SERVING TODAY

February 4	8:30	11:00
Usher	Ron Semmont	David Krantz
Lay Reader	Stacey Himler	Dianna Smith
Worship Assistant	Trish Boyer	Eric Valentine
Acolyte		Soren Evers
Healing Prayer	Diane Massey	Joy Rowe
Altar Guild	Carol Whyte	Eric Valentine
Live Stream Operator	Kristin Schlegel & Isabella Valentine	
Fellowship Host	Sandi & Larry Shea	

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY

February 11	8:30	11:00
Usher	Carol Benner-Chaffinch	Tim & Cheryl Altares
Lay Reader	Rod Kopp	Joyce Nauman
Worship Assistant	Eric Valentine	Pam Curnock
Acolyte	Connor Pencek	Kristin Schlegel
Healing Prayer	Dianna Smith	Maynard Gregory
Altar Guild	Janice Weiner	Janice Piatkowski
Live Stream Operator	Jack Pencek	
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
	5:00 pm	Youth Group (in Annex)
Wednesday	5:30 pm	Stewardship Committee
	7:00 pm	Confirmation
Thursday	7:00 pm	Choir
Friday	12:00 pm	Men's Lunch (Palace Restaurant)
Saturday	2:00 pm	Skillshare (in Annex)
Next Sunday	8:30 am	Worship Service
	9:45 am	Fellowship & Bible Study
	11:00 am	Worship Service

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bring Canned Food for our “Souper Bowl”– The Christian Service Committee will be holding the annual Souper Bowl **next Sunday**. 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 New ROMEO (“Retired Old Men Eating Out”) Club starting this week! Come join us for lunch, every second Friday of the month, at noon at the Palace Restaurant in Milford. Our first lunch will be **this Friday**, 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.

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).

From Pastor Dianna Smith: Volunteer for the Milford Food Pantry!

Why it does you good to volunteer: *When you stay home you get too many telemarketing calls. Your family could use a break from you. You might need help yourself someday. It's hard to win a game of solitaire. Soap operas all sound alike. If you don't go out each day, you get old.*

Ok these are the funny reasons! But on the serious side the Milford Community Food Pantry needs volunteers! We are seeing an uptick in the number families coming to the food pantry and many of those families have only recently found themselves in a food insecure situation.

Looking forward I am hoping to have the food pantry open an additional day each week. Presently we are open Tues and Thursday 11-2. It is my fervent wish that more folks from Reformation would be involved, willing to be the hands of Christ to our needy neighbors. Speak to me, Dianna Smith, any Sunday or email me at diannasmith55@yahoo.com

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: Savannah Konesey on the 5th, Finleigh Zicarelli-Smith on the 7th, and Michael Schlegel on the 10th. **Happy anniversary to** Scott & Stephanie Fleming on the 7th.