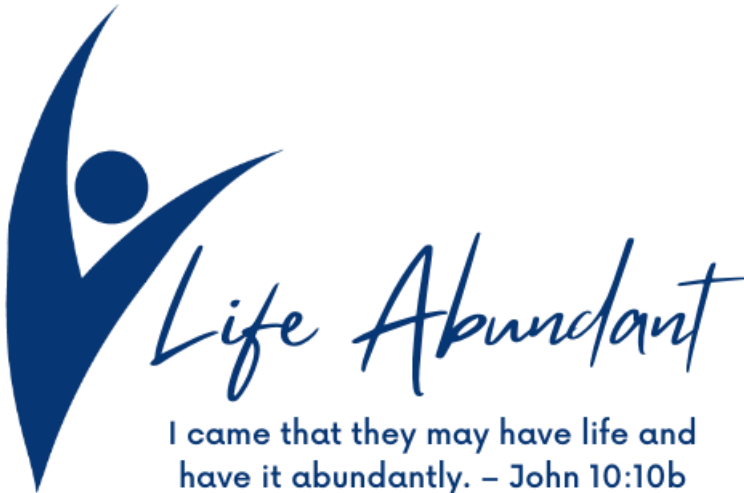


# W E L C O M E   T O   W O R S H I P



**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**April 28, 2024**  
**11:00 am**

**Reformation Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**102 West Rose Tree Road**  
**Media, Pennsylvania 19063**  
**[www.relcmmedia.org](http://www.relcmmedia.org)**

# Welcome to Reformation!

**Land acknowledgement** – Reformation is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Lenapehoking (Lenni-Lenape) people, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all of our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

**A special welcome to visitors** – we pray that the encounter with God in worship will nurture us in Christian faith and equip us for our life of loving service and justice in the world.

**Children in worship are a blessing.** We invite our smallest members to sit toward the front where it is easiest for them to see and hear worship and to join the pastors for the Sermon on the Steps.



**Worship bags** (filled with coloring books and crayons) are available at the back of the sanctuary and can be taken to your seat.

**A play space** is also available at the back of the sanctuary with additional books and soft toys.

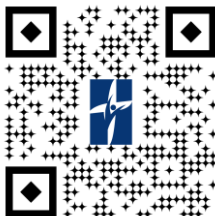
**A professionally staffed nursery** is available for children from birth to age 4. Patty Boccella is our nursery attendant. Worship is livestreamed to the nursery as well as to the lobby.

**All are welcome at the table** of our Lord Jesus Christ where God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. We believe Christ is present in the bread and wine. Instructions for distribution are printed in the service bulletin.

**Our Prayer List** can be found at [relcmedia.org/virtualchurch](http://relcmedia.org/virtualchurch). To make your prayer request known, please call the church office (610-891-0600, ext. 115) or send an e-mail to [rlc@relcmedia.org](mailto:rlc@relcmedia.org).

**Williams Personal PA Receivers** are available for use by the hearing impaired.

**Large print bulletins are available from an usher.**



**Scan to give online through our secure platform or through Venmo.**

# Fifth Sunday of Easter

## April 28, 2024 · 11:00 am

☒ = Congregation

☒ = Assisting Minister

☒ = Presiding Minister

# GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

☒ Alleluia! Christ is risen!

☒ **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

☒ In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

☒ **Amen.**

☒ Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*The assembly remembers their baptism as water is poured into the font. Worshipers may touch the water as a reminder of their baptism when they approach the altar to receive Holy Communion or when they leave the service.*

☒ We give you thanks, holy and gracious God, for you created the waters of the earth: wide oceans, rushing streams, clear lakes, mighty rivers.

☒ **We thank you, O God.**

☒ You led your people through the sea and called them to life in covenant with you. Your Son was baptized in the river Jordan to begin his mission among us. You pour out your Holy Spirit to renew the face of the earth.

☒ **We praise you, O God.**

☒ Through this water remind us of the gift of baptism. Wash away all the sin within us, and renew us in your promise so that we may serve this world in all its need; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

☒ **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

*Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)*

Verse 1      **You call me out upon the waters  
The great unknown where feet may fail  
And there I find You in the mystery  
In oceans deep my faith will stand**

Chorus        **And I will call upon Your name  
And keep my eyes above the waves  
When oceans rise  
My soul will rest in Your embrace  
For I am Yours and You are mine**

Verse 2      **Your grace abounds in deepest waters  
Your sov'reign hand will be my guide  
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me  
You've never failed and You won't start now**

Chorus        **And I will call upon Your name  
And keep my eyes above the waves  
When oceans rise  
My soul will rest in Your embrace  
For I am Yours and You are mine**

Bridge        **Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders  
Let me walk upon the waters  
Wherever You would call me  
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander  
And my faith will be made stronger  
In the presence of my Saviour (repeat bridge)**

Chorus 2     **I will call upon Your name  
Keep my eyes above the waves  
My soul will rest in Your embrace  
I am Yours and You are mine**

*GREETING*

☞ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

☛ **And also with you.**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY*

☞ Let us pray. O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☛ **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

# WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

## FIRST READING

Acts 8:26-40

**A** A reading from Acts.

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” <sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

**A** The Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**A** A reading from first John.

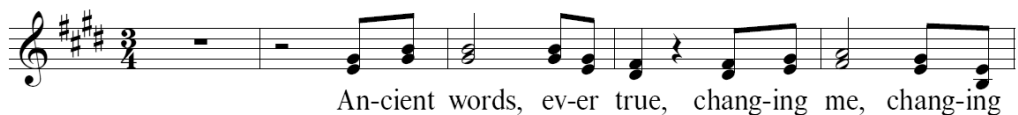
<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. <sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

**A** The Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*



GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

☞ The Holy Gospel according to John.

☞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

*After the reading has concluded:*

☞ The Gospel of the Lord.

☞ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

SERMON ON THE STEPS

SERMON

Pastor Eileen Ruppel-Doan

*Silence for reflection*

*The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.*



**Intro**            **Where You go I'll go**  
**Where You stay I'll stay**  
**When You move I'll move**  
**I will follow**

**Verse 1**           **All Your ways are good   All Your ways are sure**  
**I will trust in You alone   Higher than my sight**  
**High above my life   I will trust in You alone**

**Chorus**           **Where You go I'll go   Where You stay I'll stay**  
**When You move I'll move   I will follow You**  
**Whom You love I'll love   How You serve I'll serve**  
**If this life I lose   I will follow (You)**

**Interlude**       **Yeah I will follow You yeah**

**Verse 2**           **Light into the world   Light into my life**  
**I will live for You alone   You're the One I seek**  
**Knowing I will find   All I need in You alone**  
**In You alone**

**Chorus**

**Bridge**           **In You there's life everlasting**  
**In You there's freedom for my soul**  
**In You there's joy unending joy**  
**And I will follow**

**Chorus, repeat Chorus**

**Ending**           **Yeah I will follow You yeah**  
**I will follow You yeah**  
**I will follow You yeah**

*NICENE CREED*

☐ With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

☑ **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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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*

*Opportunity will be provided for you to offer prayers for concerns on your heart, silently or aloud. Please conclude each prayer petition with the words, “Lord, in your mercy.”*

- A** Let us rejoice in the risen life of Christ and pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*After each portion of the prayers:*

**A** Lord, in your mercy,

**C** **Hear our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude:*

- A** Joining our voices with your faithful ones in every time and place, we offer our prayers in the name of the Risen One, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

*PEACE*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** **And also with you.**

*The people greet one another with a sign of Christ’s peace saying “Peace be with you” or similar words.*

*The assembly is seated.*

# MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

*OFFERING*

*Tithes and offerings are gathered for the mission of the church*

*MUSICAL OFFERING*

*Never Walk Alone*

*Rend Collective*

## SETTING THE TABLE

The assembly stands to sing as the gifts are brought forward.



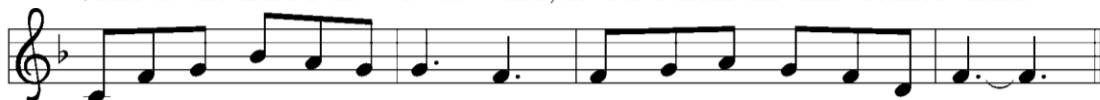
Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

## OFFERING PRAYER

**A** Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God,

**C** ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## 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.

- ☐ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Crowder, Dodson, Maher, and Waldrop  
Erik Flaten

Ho - ly Ho - ly Ho - ly Ho - ly Ho - ly

7 Ho - ly Heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry, your

12 glo - ry. Bless-ed is He who comes comes in the na - me of the

16 Lo - rd. Ho - sa - na in the high - est.\_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three! . . . We proclaim the mystery of faith.
- ☑ **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**
- ☐ Holy God, we remember your Son, . . . His resurrection for us all.
- ☑ **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**
- ☐ Holy God, we beg for your Spirit. . . . Nourish the life of the earth.
- ☑ **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**
- ☐ You, Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three . . . . praise tomorrow, praise forever!
- ☑ **Amen.**

## *LORD'S PRAYER*

- ☞ Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:
- ☞ **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.**

## *COMMUNION*

- ☞ This is the feast of victory for our God!
- ☞ **Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

*The assembly is seated.*

All are welcome at the table of the Lord! We believe and teach that Christ is present in the mystery of the sacrament of Holy Communion and that by communing with him we receive forgiveness of our sin.

Communion will be distributed by intinction – after you receive the bread, you may dip it in the chalice on the bread tray, which has grape juice, or the chalice held by the communion assistant, which has wine. Children who have not received instruction for communion are invited to come forward for a blessing. If you are unable to walk to communion, please let an usher know so that a pastor can bring communion to your seat. Gluten free wafers are available upon request to the pastor distributing the bread.

*As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*The communicant may say: Amen*

*The assembly sings the following during communion.:*

*Behold the Lamb of God*

Matt Maher

Vocals

And now we see Your sac - ri-fice, the great - est gift, our  
great - est prize. Be-hold the Lamb of God, be-hold the lamb of  
God, who takes a-way the sins of the world.

COMMUNION SONG

*God's Highway*

Verse 1      **My feet are strong my eyes are clear  
I cannot see the way from here  
But on we go You know the way  
And in Your arms You keeps me safe**

Chorus        **Fear not keep on watch and pray  
Walk in the light of God's highway**

Verse 2      **The shadows flee the valley's deep  
But evil cannot conquer me  
Your rod and staff they protect me  
You give me rest You give me peace**

Chorus

Verse 3      **I see the shore from troubled seas  
This tiny ship that carries me  
It is not yet but it will be  
So heaven come it's You we need**

Chorus

CCLI Song # 7041357 Sandra McCracken | Thad Cockrell © 2015 Little Hoss Music (Admin. by Concord Music) Drink Your Tea Music (Fair Trade Music Publishing [c/o Essential Music Publishing LLC]) For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 769144

*After all have communed, the assembly stands.*



*TABLE BLESSING*

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C** Amen.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION*

**A** Let us pray. Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**C** Amen.

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

*BLESSING*

**P** The God of life, who raised Jesus from the dead, who sends forth the Spirit to renew the face of the earth, be merciful to you and ✠ bless you, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

Verse 1      **I was buried beneath my shame  
Who could carry that kind of weight  
It was my tomb 'til I met You**

Verse 2      **I was breathing but not alive  
All my failures I tried to hide  
It was my tomb 'til I met You**

Chorus      **('Cause when) You called my name (and)  
I ran out of that grave  
Out of the darkness into Your glorious day  
You called my name (and) I ran out of that grave  
Out of the darkness into Your glorious day**

Verse 3      **Now Your mercy has saved my soul  
Now Your freedom is all that I know  
The old made new Jesus when I met You**

Chorus

Bridge      **I needed rescue my sin was heavy  
But chains break at the weight of Your glory  
I needed shelter I was an orphan  
Now You call me a citizen of Heaven  
When I was broken You were my healing  
Now Your love is the air that I'm breathing  
I have a future my eyes are open**

Chorus

CCLI Song # 7081388 Jason Ingram | Jonathan Smith | Kristian Stanfill | Sean Curran © 2017 KPS 1.0 (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) sixsteps Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) sixsteps Songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Sounds Of Jericho (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Worship Together Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Fellow Ships Music (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) Hickory Bill Doc (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) So Essential Tunes (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) *For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 769144*

DISMISSAL

**A** Called by Christ,

**C** We invite all people, serve our neighbors, and build a living faith.

**A** Go in peace. Share the good news!

**C** Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

To see the list of today's worship volunteers,  
you can go to [relcmedia.org/worshipteam](http://relcmedia.org/worshipteam),  
scan below or visit the Worship Team  
information stand in the lobby.



**Instrumental Musicians**

Matthew Murphy, Guitar

Michael Hagarman, Bass

Joe McGuth, Drums

**OUR MISSION:** Called by Christ, we INVITE all people,  
SERVE our neighbors, and BUILD a living faith.

**WELCOME:** Called by Christ we invite all people, celebrating the diversity of God's creation. Reformation is an affirming congregation for all: rejoicing with the young and old, welcoming people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, working to cultivate an accessible and inclusive community for all abilities, and embracing all races, cultures, and faith traditions.

We serve our neighbors following the teachings of Christ. Reformation responds to the needs of the most vulnerable - providing nourishment and comfort, supporting the work of the local and global church, and protecting God's creation for future generations.

We build a living faith emboldened by the Holy Spirit. Reformation embodies the unconditional love of God through worshiping and learning together and valuing the gifts of everyone. To create the fullness of our community of faith, we nurture relationships, pursue racial equity and gender justice, and advocate for the wellbeing of the marginalized.

*Liturgy from SundaysandSeasons.com, copyright 2024, Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #34013. Scripture readings are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches in Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Eucharist setting Now the Feast and Celebration, Text and Music: Marty Haugen; ©1990, GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-723332. Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-723332. All rights reserved.*

## Reformation Evangelical Lutheran Church Leadership Team

To contact those with an extension please call **610-891-0600** and use the listed extension number or send e-mail to the listed address.

The Rev. Alina S. Gayeuski  
*Lead Pastor*

ext. 109  
PastorAlina@relcmedia.org

The Rev. Eileen Ruppel-Doan  
*Pastor*

ext. 108  
PastorEileen@relcmedia.org

Vicar Paula Estornell  
*Deacon Intern*

VicarPaula@relcmedia.org

Christine Corson  
*Senior Administrative Assistant*

ext. 112  
rlc@relcmedia.org

Andrea Menta  
*Administrative Assistant*

ext. 110  
rlc@relcmedia.org

Valerie Rozek  
*Director of Music*

cell: 440-478-8163  
varozek@relcmedia.org

Erik Flaten  
*Director of Contemporary Music*

cell: 509-528-8979  
erik.flaten@relcmedia.org

Liz Hazlett  
*Children's Choir Director*

lizhazlett@relcmedia.org

John Grantland  
*Council President*

president@relcmedia.org

**Office Hours:** Monday-Thursday, 9:00am – 3:30pm  
Friday, Closed