



## **Reformation Lutheran Church**

September 13, 2026 | 11:00 am

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

# Welcome to Reformation!

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

**Welcome!** First time visitors are invited to stop by our welcome center in the lobby. All are invited to **check in** with us using the friendship pads in your row or online at [relcmedia.org/hello](http://relcmedia.org/hello).

**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 recognize and honor all of our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

**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. A Pray Ground space is available during worship at the back of the sanctuary. Worship Bags can be filled at the Pray Ground and taken to your seat. A professionally staffed nursery is available for children from birth to age 4. Worship is livestreamed to the nursery as well as to the lobby. A family restroom is located on the lower level.

**All are welcome at the table** where we celebrate the presence of Christ. As ushers direct you forward:

1. Receive the bread (for gluten free, ask a pastor during distribution)
2. Dip the bread in one of the chalices
  - White grape juice is on the bread tray held by the pastor
  - Red wine is held by the Communion assistant to the side of the pastor

Those who do not commune are invited to come forward for a blessing.  
Please let an usher know if you need Communion brought to your seat.

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

**Worship is livestreamed** and recorded. If you do not wish to be on camera, please sit in the balcony or speak to a pastor.

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

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

# Gathering

\*Please stand as you are able

Congregational responses are indicated in bold

## Prelude

This is a Move

## Welcome and Announcements

This is the day that the Lord has made.

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.** (Psalm 118:24)

## Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

[Silence is kept for reflection.]

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Reform us to be a church empowered by your love, acting for justice and seeking the healing of your whole creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

## Gathering Song\*

Freedom

- Verse 1      **Friends we were all called to be free  
So let us serve each other in love  
Christ's command  
Love each other as yourself  
Should fill our hearts  
And keep us from sin**
- Chorus        **For freedom Christ has set us free  
Stand firm throw off your slavery  
In Jesus what really matters  
Is faith expressed through love**
- Verse 2       **So I say now live by the Spirit  
Don't give in to desires of the flesh  
Sin conflicts with God's Holy Spirit  
We have God's grace so sin has no power**
- Chorus
- Verse 3       **Acts of sin keep us from God's kingdom  
Do not live as you did before  
The sinful nature its passions and desires  
Are crucified when we belong to Christ**
- Chorus

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## 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 Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## **Installation of Christian Education Leaders**

### **Word**

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#### **First Reading**

Genesis 50:15-21

A reading from Genesis.

<sup>15</sup> Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" <sup>16</sup> So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup> 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup> Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." <sup>19</sup> But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup> Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. <sup>21</sup> So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

Romans 14:1-12

A reading from Romans.

<sup>1</sup> Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup> Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup> Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup> Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. <sup>5</sup> Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup> Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God. <sup>7</sup> For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup> If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup> For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. <sup>10</sup> Why do you pass judgment on your sibling? Or you, why do you despise your sibling? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup> For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." <sup>12</sup> So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation\*

♩ = 100

Vocals

Word of God, en - throned, dwell in

5

Vox.

us for - ev - er more. Love has come to show the way.

9

Vox.

Hal - le - lu \_\_\_\_\_ jah, peace be with \_\_\_\_\_

13

Vox.

us. Love has come to show \_\_\_\_\_ the way.

## **Gospel\***

Matthew 18:21-35

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup> Peter came and said to [Jesus,] “Lord, if my sibling sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. <sup>23</sup> “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup> When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, <sup>25</sup> and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup> So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup> And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup> But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ <sup>29</sup> Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ <sup>30</sup> But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup> When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup> Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup> Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup> And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup> So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your sibling from your heart.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon on the Steps**

Blessing of the Backpacks

## **Sermon**

## **Hymn of the Day\***

Mighty to Save

Verse 1      **Ev'ryone needs compassion  
Love that's never failing  
Let mercy fall on me  
Ev'ryone needs forgiveness  
The kindness of a Saviour  
The hope of nations**

Chorus        **Saviour He can move the mountains  
My God is mighty to save  
He is mighty to save  
Forever Author of salvation  
He rose and conquered the grave  
Jesus conquered the grave**

Verse 2       **So take me as You find me  
All my fears and failures  
Fill my life again  
I give my life to follow  
Ev'rything I believe in  
Now I surrender**

Chorus

Bridge        **Shine your light and let the whole world see  
We're singing  
For the glory of the risen King  
Jesus  
Shine your light and let the whole world see  
We're singing  
For the glory of the risen King**

Chorus

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## **Apostles' Creed\***

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **Prayers of Intercession\***

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

[After each prayer petition:]

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

[The prayers conclude:]

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

## **Blessing of the Prayer Shawls\***

### **Peace\***

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

[The people greet one another with "Peace be with you" and a sign of Christ's peace.]

# Meal

## Offering

[Use pew envelopes or scan code to give online]



## Musical Offering

Praise

Brandon Lake, Chandler Moore, Chris Brown,  
Cody Carnes, Pat Barrett and Steven Furtick

## Setting the Table\*

Vocals

Make me Your ves-sel, make me an of - fer-ing

3

Vox. Make me what-ev - er You want me\_\_ to be.

5

Vox. came here with noth - ing but all you have giv - en me.

7

Vox. Je - sus, bring new wine out of me.\_\_

## Offering Prayer\*

Let us pray. **Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## Great Thanksgiving\*

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**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.\_\_\_\_\_

Blessed are you, . . . as he comes to us in his holy supper.  
**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**  
In the night . . . remembrance of me.

## Lord's Prayer\*

Joining our hearts and voices, 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

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

**Thanks be to God!**

All are welcome at the table where we celebrate the presence of Christ. As ushers direct you forward:

1. Receive the bread (for gluten free, ask a pastor during distribution)
2. Dip the bread in one of the chalices
  - White grape juice is on the bread tray held by the pastor
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Those who do not commune are invited to come forward for a blessing.  
Please let an usher know if you need Communion brought to your seat.

[The assembly sings the following during communion:]

# Lamb of God

♩ = 73

Vocals

I come bro - ken to be mend - ed I come wound-ed to be

4

Vox.

healed. I come des - p'rate to be res - cued. I come emp - ty to be

8

Vox.

filled. I come guilt - y to be par - doned by the blood of Christ, the

12

Vox.

lamb. And I'm wel - comed with o - pen arms, praise God just as I

17

Vox.

am.

# Communion Song

All Belong Here

Verse 1      **When you're not sure who you really are  
When all you feel is the shape of your scars  
And you have more wounds than you can count  
Open your eyes look all around  
You aren't alone this is your home**

Chorus        **Come and remember who you are here  
Do this to remember who I am  
Come and remember you belong here  
All belong here**

Verse 2      **When you don't know how to forgive  
When locked doors seem like the only way to live  
And you've got more questions than you can count  
Open your eyes look all around  
You aren't alone this is your home**

Chorus

Bridge        **At this table come as you are  
Broken and bleeding's ok  
At this table eat and be filled  
Come and drink in this grace**

Interlude     **Ooo ooo ooo ooo ooo**

Bridge

Chorus

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## **Table Blessing\***

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

**Amen.**

## **Prayer after Communion\***

Let us pray. O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit, strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Sending of Communion\***

Let us pray. Gracious God, you took the form of a servant, offering yourself as food, comfort, and strength to a sick and hurting world. Anoint with a servant heart those who take your word and sacrament to those who are homebound. Grant grace, mercy, healing, and hope to those who feast on your body and blood and receive your words of new life.

**Amen.**

## **Sending**

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### **Blessing\***

God all mighty, God most merciful + bless you, keep you, and give you peace.

**Amen.**

# **Sending Song\***

Child of Love

Verse 1    **I was walking the wayside  
Lost on a lonely road  
I was chasing the high life  
Try'n to satisfy my soul**

Verse 2    **All the lies I believed in  
Left me crying like the rain  
Then I saw lightning from heaven  
And I've never been the same**

Chorus    **I'm gonna climb a mountain  
I'm gonna shout about it  
I am a child of love  
I found a world of freedom  
I found a friend in Jesus  
I am a child of love**

Repeat Verse 1, Verse 2, Chorus

Chorus

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## **Dismissal\***

Called by Christ,

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

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Today's Worship Team**  
[relcmedia.org/worshipteam](http://relcmedia.org/worshipteam)



## **Instrumental Musicians**

Erik Flaten, Piano

Matthew Murphy, Guitar

Michael Hagarman, Bass

Jack Burdwood, Drums

## **Welcome to Reformation!**

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.



|                                                     |                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <b>The Rev. Dr. Alina S. Gayeuski</b> , Lead Pastor | PastorAlina@relcmedia.org<br>ext. 109     |
| <b>The Rev. Eileen Ruppel-Doan</b> , Pastor         | PastorEileen@relcmedia.org<br>ext. 108    |
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**Office Hours:** Monday-Thursday, 9:00am – 3:30pm; Friday, CLOSED