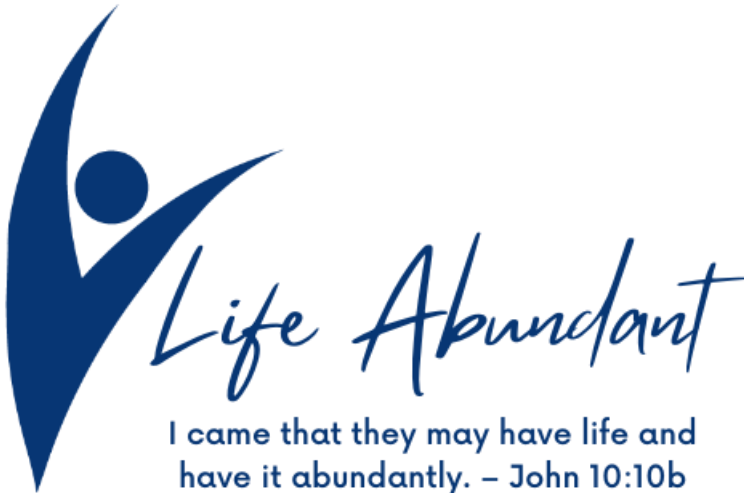


# WELCOME TO WORSHIP



**Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost**  
**September 17, 2023**  
**8:30 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.

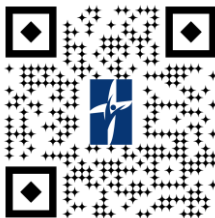
**A professionally staffed nursery** is available for children from birth to age 4. Patty Boccella is our nursery attendant. Worship is livestreamed to the nursery as well as to the lobby.

**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.**

# Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

## September 17, 2023 · 8:30 am

☒ = Congregation

☒ = Assisting Minister

☒ = Presiding Minister

## GATHERING

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

*PRELUDE*

*Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus*

arr. Thomas Gieschen

*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 always 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.**



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and  
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are  
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion  
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er  
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in  
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in  
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and  
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -  
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.  
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.  
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.  
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.  
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

### 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.**

*The assembly is seated.*

*INSTALLATION OF VICAR PAULA*

**P** Our Lord Jesus, who came among us as a servant, calls us to faith and a life of loving service to our neighbor. You come among us as one invited to render a particular service, a gift from God to inspire us to love and good works.

**P** Paula, in the presence of this assembly will you commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility, in the confidence that it comes from God?

*Response:* I will, and I ask God to help me.

**P** Trusting in God's care, will you seek to grow in love for those you serve, strive for excellence in your skills, and adorn the gospel of Jesus Christ with a godly life?

*Response:* I will, and I ask God to help me.

**P** Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

**C Amen.**

**P** People of God, will you receive Paula into this ministry as one sent to serve in the church of Jesus Christ?

**C We will, and we ask God to help us.**

**P** Will you pray for her, help and honor her for her work's sake, and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

**C We will, and we ask God to help us.**

**P** Paula, I now declare you installed as Vicar.  
Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace,  
that you may be a faithful servant of Christ.

**C Amen.**

# WORD

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

## FIRST READING

Genesis 50:15-21

**A** 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.

**A** The Word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

**A** A reading from Romans.

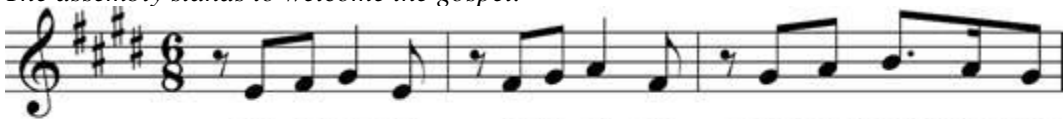
<sup>1</sup>Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on servants 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 in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. <sup>7</sup>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 brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? 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 of us will be accountable to God.

**A** The Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we



go? You have the words of e - ter - nal



life. Al - le - lu - ia!

*Repeat*

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup>Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church 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, his 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 brother or sister from your heart.”

*After the reading has concluded:*

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

*SERMON ON THE STEPS*

*SERMON*

Vicar Paula Estornell

*Silence for reflection*



*BLESSING OF HANDS*

**P** Through Baptism we are called to serve and love one another and empowered by the Holy Spirit to do God's work with our hands in the world.

**P** As we live in community with God and one another

**C** **May our hands be instruments of peace and love**

**P** When a stranger is in our midst

**C** **May our hands extend a welcome**

**P** Where there is injustice in the world and in our communities

**C** **May our hands create hope and healing**

**P** Wherever there is sorrow, sickness and suffering

**C** **May our hands embrace the broken and offer prayers**

**P** Let us pray. Holy God, may we be reminded whatever the need, large or small, you are at work through our hands. May we serve generously, lovingly, and faithfully.

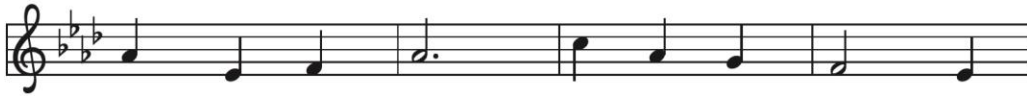
**C** **Amen.**

**P** Sisters and brothers in Christ, God is at work. God is working through us, in us, and by our hands. Will you look to Jesus as our example in freely serving others with love, compassion and humility?

**C** **We will and we ask God to help us.**

*Worshippers are invited to go to one of the "Blessing Stations" to receive a blessing and anointing on the backs of their hands. There are four stations – two in the front and two in the back of the Sanctuary. Ushers will direct you to one of the stations.*

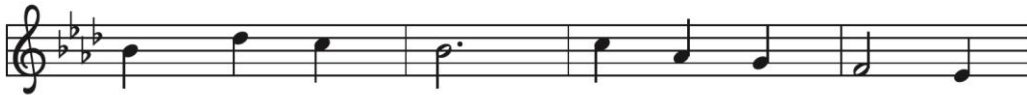
*The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.*



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,  
 2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,  
 3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,  
 4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,  
 fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,  
 prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,  
 seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,  
 walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,  
 pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,  
 Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.  
 run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.  
 claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.  
 gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,  
 Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,  
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,  
 Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

*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** With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*After each portion of the prayers:*

- A** Lord, in your mercy,

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

*The prayers conclude:*

- A** Trusting in your mercy and goodness, we bring before you these prayers and whatever else you see we need, in the name of the one who sets us free, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

- 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*

*God of Grace*

Words and Music: Keith Getty  
and Jonathan Rea  
Arr: Lloyd Larson

Chancel Choir

# SETTING THE TABLE

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

## Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread;



so may all your peo-ple from all the ends of earth be



gath-ered in - to one in you.

## Verses



1. As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst

2. Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when



may we share the pres-ence of your love.  
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

*OFFERING PRAYER*

**A** Let us pray. Merciful God,

**C** as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever.  
**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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and  
might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!  
Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

☐ Blessed are you, . . . as he comes to us in his holy supper.

☑ **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

### *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

☞ Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

☞ **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:

**LAMB OF GOD**



1. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
2. Lamb of God, you break the chains of ha - tred and fear;
3. Lamb of God, you are the way of jus - tice and peace;
4. Lamb of God, you are the way of mer - cy and love:



have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:



grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

**COMMUNION SONG**

*We Come Now to Your Table*

Hymn No. 970 (ACS)

**We come now to your table, Lord,  
you are the Living Bread.**

**We come now to your table, Lord,  
let ev'ry soul be fed.**

**You are the Living Bread,  
let ev'ry soul be fed:**

**and now may ev'ry soul be fed  
with Living Bread.**

*After all have communed, the assembly stands.*

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

**☞ Amen.**



*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION*

**A** 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.

**C** Amen.

# SENDING

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

*BLESSING*

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C** Amen.

*SENDING SONG*

*Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing*

Hymn No. 544



1 Praise the Lord, rise up re - joic - ing, wor - ship, thanks, de -  
2 Scat - tered flock, one shep - herd shar - ing, lost and lone - ly,  
3 Sins for - giv - en, wrongs for - giv - ing, we go forth a -



vo - tion voic - ing: glo - ry be to God on high!  
one voice hear - ing, ears at - ten - tive to your word;  
lert and liv - ing in your Spir - it, strong and free.



Christ, your cross and pas - sion shar - ing, by this eu - cha -  
by your blood new life re - ceiv - ing, in your bod - y,  
Part - ners in your new cre - a - tion, seek - ing peace in



rist de - clar - ing yours the fi - nal vic - to - ry.  
firm be - liev - ing, we are yours, and you the Lord.  
ev - 'ry na - tion, may we faith - ful fol - l'wers be.

*DISMISSAL*

**A** Called by Christ,

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

**A** Go in peace. God is at work in you.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*POSTLUDE*

*Trumpet Tune I*

Michael McCabe

**To see the list of today's worship volunteers,  
you can go to [relcmedia.org/worshipteam](http://relcmedia.org/worshipteam),  
scan here:**



**or visit the Worship Team  
information stand in the lobby.**

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## **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.

# 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.

## All other phone calls: 610-891-0600

The Rev. Alina S. Gayeuski <i>Lead Pastor</i>	ext. 109 PastorAlina@relcmedia.org
The Rev. Eileen Ruppel-Doan <i>Pastor</i>	ext. 108 PastorEileen@relcmedia.org
Vicar Paula Estornell <i>Deacon Intern</i>	VicarPaula@relcmedia.org
Christine Corson <i>Senior Administrative Assistant</i>	ext. 112 rlc@relcmedia.org
Andrea Menta <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	ext. 110 rlc@relcmedia.org
Valerie Rozek <i>Director of Music</i>	cell: 440-478-8163 varozek@relcmedia.org
Erik Flaten <i>Director of Contemporary Music</i>	cell: 509-528-8979 erik.flaten@relcmedia.org
Liz Hazlett <i>Children's Choir Director</i>	lizhazlett@relcmedia.org
John Grantland <i>Council President</i>	president@relcmedia.org

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