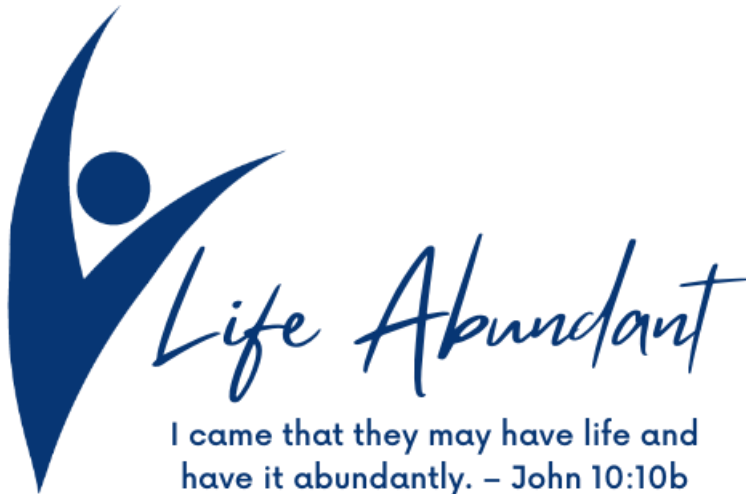


WELCOME TO WORSHIP



Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 17, 2023
11:00 am

Reformation Evangelical Lutheran Church
102 West Rose Tree Road
Media, Pennsylvania 19063
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. 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.

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 · 11:00 am

☒ = Congregation

☒ = Assisting Minister

☒ = Presiding Minister

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

Child of Love

We the Kingdom

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.**

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

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P 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.

C **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.

¹⁵Realizing 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?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'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. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even 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. ²¹So 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.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Romans 14:1-12

A A reading from Romans.

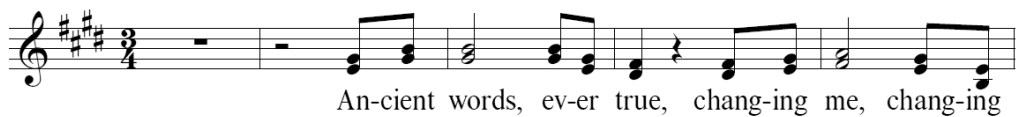
¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who 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. ⁵Some 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. ⁶Those 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. ⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If 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. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰Why 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. ¹¹For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."¹²So 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.



☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²¹Peter 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?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, 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. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But 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.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So 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.

- Verse 1 **God's work, our hands: working together,
building a future, repairing the world,
raising up homes, planting new gardens,
feeding the hungry and shelt'ring the cold.
Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
sharing the good news of your gospel.**
- Verse 2 **God's work, our feet: trav'ling together,
following Jesus to places unknown,
walking as friends, marching for freedom,
running the race with God's future the goal.
Bless, God, our feet as we follow your way,
sharing the good news of your gospel.**
- Verse 3 **God's work, our voice: singing together,
praising, proclaiming to all who will hear,
praying for peace, shouting for justice,
claiming God's love for the lost and the least.
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
sharing the good news of your gospel.**
- Verse 4 **God is at work in and around us:
seedlings are sprouting and bread's on the rise!
Washed and set free, humbled and honored,
gifted by grace, we respond in God's love.
Bless, God, our lives as we answer your call,
sharing the good news of your gospel.**

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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

MUSICAL OFFERING

My Worth is Not in What I Own

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. 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.**

P 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

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in 3/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, often beamed together in groups. The lyrics are printed below the staff, aligned with the notes. The score is divided into four systems, with measure numbers 7, 12, and 16 indicated at the beginning of their respective lines.

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. _____

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

C **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.:

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

Here I Am

Chorus **Here I am standing right beside you
 Here I am do not be afraid
 Here I am waiting like a lover
 I am here here I am**

Verse 1 **Do not fear when the tempter calls you
 Do not fear even though you fall
 Do not fear I have conquered evil
 Do not fear never be afraid**

Chorus

Verse 2 **I am here in the face of ev'ry child
 I am here in ev'ry warm embrace
 I am here with tenderness and mercy
 Here I am I am here**

Chorus

Verse 3 **I am here in the midst of ev'ry trial
 I am here in the face of despair
 I am here when pardoning your brother
 Here I am I am here**

Chorus

Ending **I am here here I am**

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After all have communed, the assembly stands.

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. 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

Sunrise, Sunset

Renaud/Flaten

Chorus:
Sun - rise I'm gon - na praise your name Sun - set

Bridge
I'm gon - na praise your name. Hal - le - lu - jah!

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.

**To see the list of today's worship volunteers,
you can go to 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
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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