

# W E L C O M E T O W O R S H I P



**Ash Wednesday**  
**February 14, 2024**  
**7:30 pm**

**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.

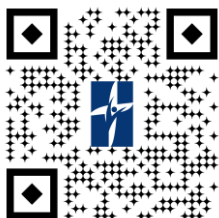
**A professionally staffed nursery** is available for children from birth to age 4. Patty Boccella is our nursery attendant. Worship is livestreamed to the nursery as well as to the lobby.

**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.**

# WORSHIP REFLECTIONS & DRAWING SPACE

This space is for everyone to make notes, ask questions, doodle, and offer insights or ideas. Feel free to tear out this page to take with you or add to the art display journal next to the pulpit.

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## QUOTE TO CONSIDER

Ash Wednesday, with its visible sign of dust and ashes on our foreheads, is a forcible reminder of our own frailty and mortality and sinfulness. We don't like to remember those parts of ourselves, but on this day, it is literally rubbed onto us.

- *Paul J. Willis*

## QUESTION TO CONSIDER

What does this day mean for your faith?

# Ash Wednesday

## February 14, 2024 • 7:30 p.m.

**C** = Congregation

**A** = Assisting Minister

**P** = Presiding Minister

# GATHERING

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

*The assembly gathers in silence.*

*The assembly stands.*

*GATHERING PSALM*

Psalm 51:1-17

- P** Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- C** **Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.**
- P** For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.
- C** **Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**
- P** Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.
- C** **Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.**
- P** Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.
- C** **Let me hear joy and gladness, that the body you have broken may rejoice.**
- P** Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.
- C** **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**
- P** Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
- C** **Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**
- P** Let me teach your ways to offenders, and sinners shall be restored to you.
- C** **Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**
- P** O LORD, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
- C** **For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it. You are not pleased with burnt offering.**
- P** The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY*

**P** The Lord be with you.

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

**P** Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated*

# WORD

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

*FIRST READING*

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

**A** A reading from Joel.

<sup>1</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—<sup>2</sup>a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. <sup>12</sup>Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; <sup>13</sup>rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. <sup>14</sup>Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD, your God? <sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; <sup>16</sup>gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. <sup>17</sup>Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep. Let them say, “Spare your people, O LORD, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’”

**A** The word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**A** A reading from Second Corinthians.

<sup>20b</sup>We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. <sup>6:1</sup>As we work together with him; we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! <sup>3</sup>We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup>but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, <sup>7</sup>truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

**A** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel*



**C** Re - turn to the Lord, your God, who is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. <sup>2</sup>“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup>But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. <sup>5</sup>“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup>But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. <sup>16</sup>“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. <sup>19</sup>“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated*

*SERMON ON THE STEPS*

*SERMON*

Pastor Alina Gayeuski

*Silence for reflection.*

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



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen - dor of your love; re -  
 2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from  
 3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -  
 4 Three-per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that



new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.  
 fruit-less fear un - furl our lives like spring-time bud and flow'r.  
 tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.  
 we, when all our search-ing ends, may see you face to face.

*The assembly is seated.*

#### INVITATION TO LENT

☐ Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent – self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love – strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.



*CONFESSION OF SIN*

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

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

**P** Most Holy and merciful God.

**C** **We confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

**P** We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

**C** **Have mercy on us, O God.**

**P** We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Have mercy on us, O God.**

**P** Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

**C** **Have mercy on us, O God.**

**P** Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

**C** **Have mercy on us, O God.**

**P** Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

**C** **Have mercy on us, O God.**

**P** Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

**C** **Have mercy on us, O God.**

**P** Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

**C** **Have mercy on us, O God.**

**P** Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

**C** **Have mercy on us, O God.**

**P** Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

**C** **Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

#### *IMPOSITION OF ASHES*

**P** Let us pray. Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

*Those who wish to receive ashes come forward.*

*The minister applies ashes to the forehead of each person with the words: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*

*After all who desire ashes have received them, the minister leads the congregation in the conclusion of the confession.*

**P** Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation

**C** **that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

**P** By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

**C** **bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

**P** Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

**C** **Amen.**

*The assembly stands.*

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION*

- A** Returning to the Lord, our God, let us pray for the church, the world, 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** Into your hands, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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 with you" or similar words.*

*The assembly is seated.*

# MEAL

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

## OFFERING

*MUSICAL OFFERING*      *All Things of Dust to Dust Return*      Text, Thomas H. Troeger  
Music, English Folk Tune  
Chancel Choir

## SETTING THE TABLE

*The assembly stands and sings as the gifts are brought forward.*



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right  
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take  
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of  
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

## OFFERING PRAYER

- A** Let us pray. Holy God,  
**C** gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, 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.**

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

The musical score is written on five staves of a treble clef in 3/4 time. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**P** Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, . . .  
. . . be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*LORD'S PRAYER*

☞ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

☞ **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*

☞ Taste and see that the Lord is good.

☞ **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, you take a - way the sin of the world;




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



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



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



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION SONG

One Bread, One Body

Hymn No. 496

*Refrain*



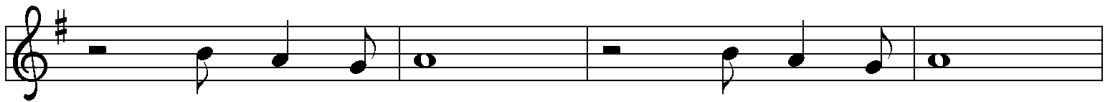
One bread, one bod - y, one Lord of all; one cup of



bles - ing which we bless, and we, though man - y

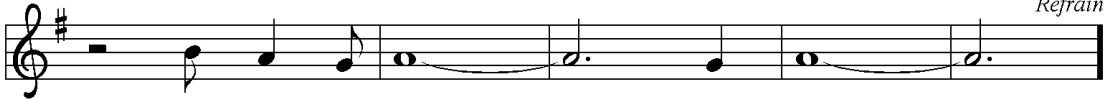


through - out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.



- |   |            |             |              |            |
|---|------------|-------------|--------------|------------|
| 1 | Gen - tile | or Jew,     | ser - vant   | or free,   |
| 2 | Man - y    | the gifts,  | man - y      | the works, |
| 3 | Grain for  | the fields, | scat - tered | and grown, |

*Refrain*



wom - an	or man,	no	more.
one in the Lord		of	all.
gath - ered to one		for	all.

*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

**A** Let us pray. Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** Amen.

BLESSING

**P** Almighty and merciful God, the Father, the  $\dagger$  Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

**C** Amen.

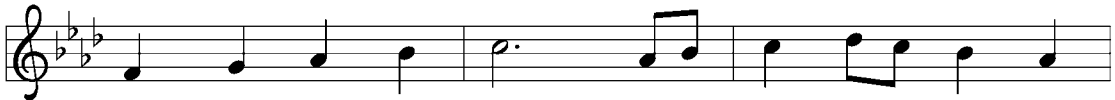
SENDING HYMN

*O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days*

Hymn No. 319



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you  
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your  
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and  
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance  
faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your  
fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -  
all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



for our sin, and free us from our past.  
skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.  
ny our - selves that we may know God's love.  
Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

DISMISSAL

**A** Called by Christ,

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

**A** Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**C** Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

*Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service*

setting, Wilbur Held

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

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