



Reformation Lutheran Church

August 30, 2026 | 10:00 am

Fourteenth 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.

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. To make your prayer request known, please call or email the church office at 610-891-0600, 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

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*

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

[Silence is kept for reflection.]

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

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*

Never Walk Alone

Verse 1 **You are my shepherd faithful forever
Your hand is strong where my faith is weak
Close as my heartbeat You won't forsake me
You are the love that will carry me**

Pre-Chorus **And I won't be afraid
I will trust Your heart and say**

Chorus **I will never ever ever walk alone
You are with us for us always holding on
Though I wander Your love goes further
You are my hope and future
I will never walk alone**

Verse 2 **Questions may haunt us casting a shadow
Still You're the hope and the fire in me
I will not tremble I will not stumble
You are my courage my bravery**

Pre-Chorus

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 God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Word

First Reading

Jeremiah 15:15-21

A reading from Jeremiah.

¹⁵ O Lord, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. ¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts. ¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. ¹⁸ Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail. ¹⁹ Therefore thus says the Lord: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. ²⁰ And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the Lord. ²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Romans 12:9-21

A reading from Romans.

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation*



An-cient words, ev-er true, chang-ing me, chang-ing
you; We have come with o-pen hearts, O let the an-cient words im-part.

Gospel*

Matthew 16:21-28

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” ²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? ²⁷ “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon on the Steps

Sermon

Hymn of the Day*

Where Justice Rolls Down

Chorus
Where justice rolls down like a mighty water
And righteousness grows like an ever-flowing stream
And mercy resounds like the waves on the ocean
Let praises rise high on the songs of the redeemed

Verse 1
There is a river that streams from the temple
Begins as a trickle but ends in the sea
As it grows healing it will give
Where it flows ev'rything will live

Chorus

Verse 2
Wade in the water and feel the strong current
Remember the stagnance of stale life before
God is here leave the past behind
In these clear waters you will find

Chorus, repeat Chorus

Let praises rise high on the songs of the redeemed

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Baptism

**Lucas Russell Stevenson
James David Stevenson**

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. . . .

People of God, do you promise to support these people and pray for them in their new life in Christ?

We do.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, ... in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

[The candidate is baptized with water, receives prayer with the laying on of hands, is anointed with oil, and presented with a candle.]

[The assembly welcomes the newly baptized:]

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

Acclamation You Belong to Christ (sung by the assembly twice)



The musical notation is written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes.

You be - long to Christ, in whom you have been bap - tized.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Prayers of Intercession*

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 prayer petition:]

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

[The prayers conclude:]

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

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

Glimmer in the Dust

Setting the Table*



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*

Let us pray. **God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in 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:

Chords: D, Bm7, A7m, A, G, D, G, D, A, bm, Gmaj7, D/A, Asus, D, G, D, A, bm, Gmaj7, D/A, A, bm, D, D/F#, Gmaj7, D/A, A, D.

Lyrics: Ho - ly, Ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Hosts. Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Blessed are you, O God, Creator of this wild and wonderful world...
 All things bright and beautiful are entrusted to us by you,
 And with all creation we praise you, O God.
 Blessed and holy Trinity, Now and always.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer*

With the confidence of children of God, let us 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

The gifts of God for the people of God.

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)
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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

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

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am

Hymn 814

**Take, oh, take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart
and live in me.**

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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. Generous God, we give you thanks that again this day you have opened wide your hands and satisfied us with the food of life, the body and blood of Christ. Sharing your compassionate heart, may we be blessed and given to all who hunger and thirst; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Sending

Blessing*

Almighty and merciful God + bless, preserve, and keep you, this day and forevermore.

Amen.

Sending Song*

Honey in the Rock

**Chorus 1 There's honey in the rock Water in the stone
Manna on the ground No matter where I go
I don't need to worry Now that I know
Everything I need You've got There's honey in the rock**

**Verse 1 Praying for a miracle
Thirsty for the Living Well
Only You can satisfy
Sweetness at the mercy seat
Now I've tasted it's not hard to see
Only You can satisfy**

Chorus 2 There's honey in the rock (4X)

**Verse 2 Freedom where the Spirit is
Bounty in the wilderness
You will always satisfy**

**Chorus 3 There's honey in the rock Water in the stone
Manna on the ground No matter where I go
I don't need to worry Now that I know
Everything I need You've got**

**There's honey in the rock Purpose in Your plan
Power in the blood Healing in Your hands
Started flowing when You said it is done
Everything You did's enough
There's honey in the rock**

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Dismissal*

Called by Christ,

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

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Today's Worship Team

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.



The Rev. Dr. Alina S. Gayeuski , Lead Pastor	PastorAlina@relcmedia.org ext. 109
The Rev. Eileen Ruppel-Doan , Pastor	PastorEileen@relcmedia.org ext. 108
Vicar Megan Maiolo , Seminarian	VicarMegan@relcmedia.org
Christine Corson , Operations Manager	ccorson@relcmedia.org ext. 112
Andrea Menta , Administrative Assistant	amenta@relcmedia.org ext. 110
Erik Flaten , Director of Music Ministry	erik.flaten@relcmedia.org 509-528-8979
Laura Reiter , Council President	president@relcmedia.org

102 West Rose Tree Road, Media PA 19063 | 610-891-0600 | relcmedia.org

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9:00am – 3:30pm; Friday, CLOSED