

Reformation Lutheran Church

3670 Perkiomen Avenue

Reading, PA 19606

www.reformationlutheran.org

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Pastor Stoddard (610) 334-1285

6th Sunday after Pentecost
A Service of Word and Sacrament

July 5th, 2026
9:30 AM



Welcome to Reformation!

Presiding Minister:	The Rev. Dr. Greg Stoddard
Director of Music:	Dr. Heidi Rochlin
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Ushers	Pat and Kathy Austin
Reader	Kathy Austin
Assisting Minister	Cynthia Smoker Johnston
Acolyte	To be determined
Altar Guild	Cynthia Smoker-Johnston & Kathy and Charles Miller
Flowers	Smoker-Johnston Family-Happy 250 th Birthday USA! Russ & Harriet Clauser-in memory of Gregory Ballinger
Live streaming	Tom Sahaida, Stu Johnston, Jared Preston, Andy Dobroskey

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

The assembly stands.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.


Compassionate God,

we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.


Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

Amen.

Before You, Lord, We Bow



1 Be - fore you, Lord, we bow, our God who reigns a - bove and
 2 May ev - 'ry moun-tain height, each vale and for - est green, shine
 3 Earth, hear your mak - er's voice; your great re - deem - er own; be -
 4 And when in pow'r he comes, oh, may then ev - 'ry land from



rules the world be - low with bound-less pow'r and love. Our thanks we
 forth in wis - dom's light, and its rich fruits be seen! May ev - 'ry
 lieve, o - bey, re - joice, and wor - ship God a - lone. Cast down your
 all its rend - ing tombs send forth a glo - rious band, a count - less




bring in joy and praise, our hearts we raise, to you we sing!
 tongue be tuned to praise and join to raise a grate - ful song.
 pride, your sin de - plore, and bow be - fore the Cru - ci - fied.
 throng, with joy to sing to heav'n's high king sal - va - tion's song!

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.

KYRIE:

Refrain



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

Refrain



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray,

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The assembly may be seated.

FIRST READING – ZECHARIAH 9:9-12

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰ He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

SECOND READING – ROMANS 7:15-25A

¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

²¹ So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my

mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a} Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL – MATTHEW 11:16-19, 25-30

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶ “To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸ “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹ the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly may be seated.

SERMON

The assembly stands.

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory



1 Mine eyes have seen the glo - ry of the com - ing of the Lord;
 2 He has sound - ed forth the trum - pet that shall nev - er call re - treat;
 3 In the beau - ty of the lil - ies Christ was born a - cross the sea,



he is tram - pling out the vin - tage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
 he is sift - ing out the hearts of men be - fore his judg - ment seat.
 with a glo - ry in his bos - om that trans - fig - ures you and me.



he has loosed the fate - ful light - ning of his ter - ri - ble swift sword;
 Oh, be swift, my soul, to an - swer him; be ju - bi - lant, my feet!
 As he died to make men ho - ly, let us live to make men free,



his truth is march - ing on.
 Our God is march - ing on.
 while God is march - ing on.

Refrain

Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah! Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah!



Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah! His truth is march - ing on.



APOSTLES' CREED

**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.**

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Assisting Minister: Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Each petition of the prayers concludes with these words:

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING & ANTHEM

Look at the World, *by John Rutter*

OFFERTORY: We Are an Offering

ELW 692

We lift our voices. We lift our hands.
We lift our lives up to You, we are an offering.

Lord use our voices. Lord use our hands.
Lord use our lives they are Yours, we are an offering.

All that we have. All that we are.
All that we hope to be we give to You, we give to You.

We lift our voices. We lift our hands.
We lift our lives up to You, we are an offering, we are an offering.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray:

**Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.
Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.
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...

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

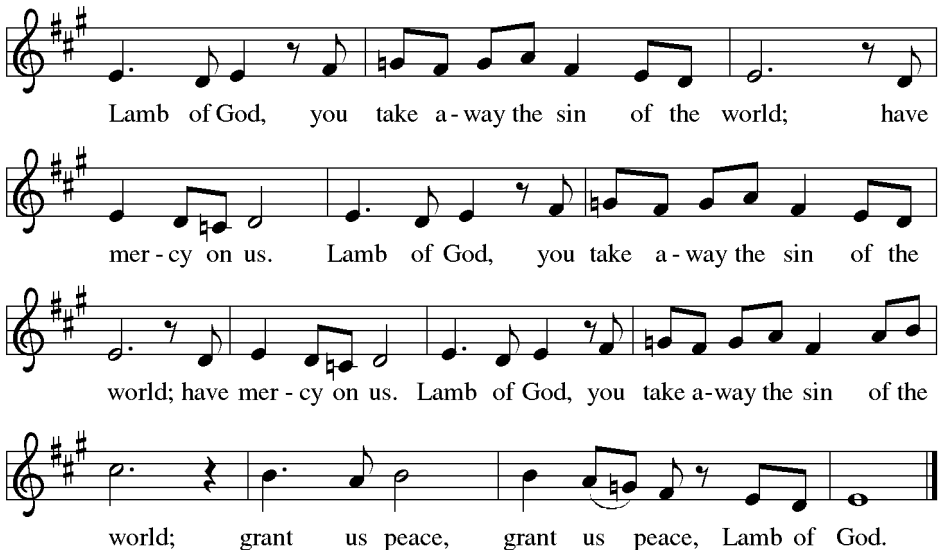
**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION & COMMUNION

Please note that, to be accessible to all, our communion bread is gluten-free, nut-free and lactose-free; both wine (served at the rail) and grape juice (in the trays) are available. When returning your used cups to the trays along the walls, please do not stack the cups. All are welcome to commune.

LAMB OF GOD



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

COMMUNION HYMNS

A Place at the Table

For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star over head.

Refrain:

And God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy,
Yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice, and joy.

For woman and man, a place at the table,
revising the roles, deciding to share,
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,
for woman and man, a system that's fair. *Refrain*

For young and for old, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
for young and for old, the right to belong. *Refrain*

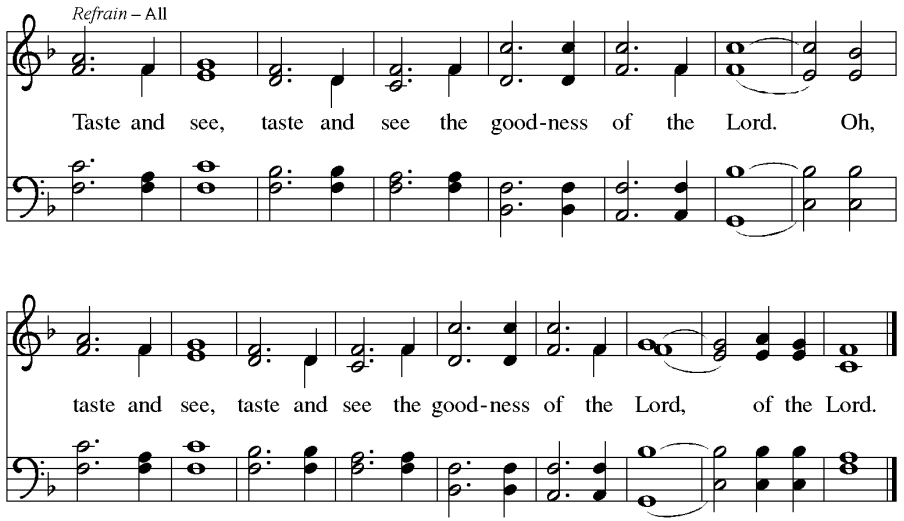
For just and unjust, a place at the table.
abuser, abused, with need to forgive,
in anger, in hurt, a mind-set of mercy,
for just and unjust, a new way to live. *Refrain*

For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for everyone born, the right to be free. *Refrain*

Taste and See

ELW 493

Refrain - All



Taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord. Oh,
taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord, of the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,

✝ one God,

bles, heal, and hold you

today and always.

Amen.

The Right Hand of God

1 The right hand of God is writ - ing in our land,
 2 The right hand of God is point - ing in our land,
 3 The right hand of God is strik - ing in our land,
 4 The right hand of God is heal - ing in our land,

writ - ing with pow - er and with love,
 point - ing the way . . . we must go,
 strik - ing out at en - vy, hate, and greed.
 heal - ing bro - ken bod - ies, minds, and souls,

our con - flicts and our fears, our tri - umphs and our tears
 so cloud - ed is the way, so eas - i - ly we stray,
 Our self - ish - ness and lust, our pride and deeds un - just
 so won - drous is its touch with love that means so much,

are re - cord - ed by the right hand of God.
 but we're guid - ed by the right hand of God.
 are de - stroyed by the right hand of God.
 when we're healed by the right hand of God.

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

PRAYER LIST

Added-none

Reformation Family: Carol Baer, Steve Barnett, Ruth Blatt, Tom Brizek, Millie Castillo, Harriet Clauser, Nancy Edinger, Bob Galbraith, Rich Hawk, Roger Hillibush, Dana Humbert, Maddie Kemp, Cheryl Manella, Pat Schonour, Scott, Linda Sell,, Elinor Snyder, Erica Sweigert, Connie Whalen, and Herb Zettlemyer

Friends of Reformation: Kathy Adomshick, Thomas Allmon, Sandy Bender, Andy Bishop, Claire Boarder, Karen Borsak, Michele Boucher, Mary Bowen, Susan Broome, Lucille Canta, Cathy, Barbara Connor, Carl and Laura, Patricia Derr. Bernadette Dieumegard, Wilgus Elliott, Judi and Carl Esterly, Ethan, Susan Flicker, Francis, Greg Geesaman, Robert Granko, Brian Gruber, Gino Hinnershitz, Richard Hoffman, John Howard, Deacon Kalbach, Kayden, Allison Kunkel, Batya Leidner, Scott Leone, Dana Little, Maryann and Elwood Long, Alyson, Sophie, and Avery Maas, Kathy McCoy,, Hank and Dee Narvaez. Andrew Nosti, Amy Papilla, Wyatt Plica, Chris Plue, Steve Puwalski, Molly Regan, Avery Reinert, Keith and Peg Ruch, Garrett Schanfelder, Karolyn Schrufer, Kim Sharp, Linda Smith, Charles Sperling, Herm Spitzer, Jacob Stoner, John Swartz, Taylor Tenuta, Grace Vetter, , Michael Ware, and Erika Wesch.

We pray for our Call Committee as they listen and discern during this season of transition.

Next Week's Worship Leaders:

July 12th

Ushers	Bob Rutherford
Reader	Terri Adams
Assisting Minister	Judy Plica
Acolyte	TBD

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUMMER TOGETHER TIMES Every other summer Sunday, we will be gathering in the narthex after worship for a time of conversation, coffee, and goodies. Please plan to stay and visit a while. If you're able to help set up, clean up, or bring something delicious to share on one of the 6 dates, please sign up on the sheets on the door in the narthex. We are asking each family to sign up once during the summer. That would mean that all the slots would be filled. Join us next Sunday!

Clothing Bank – School has just ended but it's time to start thinking about the book bag and school supply drive. We will again be working with Pam's Promise (the food and clothing bank for Antietam School District). Items needed: book bags, 24 count Crayola crayons, large glue sticks, pencil boxes, #2 pencils, pens, dry erase markers, highlighters, block erasers, pocket folders and spiral notebooks. All items need to be at the church by Sunday, August 2nd. We will be sorting and filling bookbags on August 2nd immediately after church and Monday, August 3rd starting at 9AM. We will be distributing from the church on **Friday, August 7th from 9-11AM and 3-5PM**. Thank you for your support of this yearly cause. If you have any questions, contact Karen Hawk at karen.hawk514@gmail.com.

We are looking for children's summer clothing, sizes infant through 16 – especially for boys. Help is always needed on the second Tuesday morning of each month for unpacking, sorting and straightening up, as well as on the third Friday each month for the Give. Thanks again! Your help and donations are always appreciated.

Thrivent Charitable Giving: Are you a Thrivent member? If you are, you may be eligible to participate in a program called Thrivent Choice Dollars. This program is part of Thrivent's nation-wide grant program which distributes funds to approved charitable organizations across the country. Your Choice Dollar eligibility depends on the type and number of programs or policies you have with Thrivent. If you are eligible, you will get a written notice or email from Thrivent telling you have dollars waiting for you to donate to an organization. All you have to do is login to the Thrivent website, choose the Choice Dollars option and select the organization you want to donate to. It is easy and costs

you nothing. If you have difficulty logging in to the Thrivent website, contact your local Thrivent Financial professional for assistance. Just so you know, Reformation Evangelical Lutheran Church, has over the last 4 calendar years, received \$9731 Choice Dollars for programs in the Church and community. However, if you have another organization your strongly support, by all means designate to that organization. The important thing is using the program for the good of all. Otherwise your Choice Dollars will be sent to the charities of Thrivent's choosing.

Reformation Congregational Council Highlights

Here's a quick recap of the key topics from the June 16, 2026, Congregational Council meeting:

- God's Work...Our Hands Sunday is September 13, 2026: The major activity this year will be "Fill the Truck". This goal is to fill an Opportunity House box truck. Our challenge is to fill it with household goods, clothing and/or anything people would need when they depart the shelter and move into their own apartments. Keep a lookout for information on the specific date and time of drop offs. In addition, other activities are planned. Stay tuned.
- We have begun a new project called "Pave the Road" (A shortened version of a strategic plan): The project goal is to provide information directly from the committees to council concerning their short-term and long-term projects/duties/goals. This information is vital to planning and budgeting. Working packets and instructions were handed out to council liaisons at the June meeting. Council liaisons are tasked with working with their assigned committee chair and/or the entire committee to develop the information. All that is required is some time, open communication, a pencil and the simple report sheet. Reports are due back to the council no later than the 3rd Sunday in August.
- Nominating Committee: Council is in the process of creating the nominating committee for elections of Council members at the January 2027 Annual Meeting.
- Social hall carpet: Thanks to a generous donation a new carpet will be installed in the social hall. Colors have been chosen by the Property Committee and the carpet has been ordered. We are now just waiting for delivery and installation dates.
- Synod Assembly was June 4-6, 2026: Pastor Greg Stoddard and Steve and Elisha Barnett attended as Reformation's synod

delegates. The main highlights are:

- 1) A new bishop was elected - Pastor Jennifer Dee, who currently serves at Trinity Robesonia. Her term is for 6 years and starts September 1, 2026.
 - 2) The 2027 annual budget was approved along with the 2027 compensation guidelines.
 - 3) A new and exciting opportunity for lay folks to become a Lay Lead Minister was discussed and approved. More information to come.
- Joint worship service and lunch at Rustic Park: A joint worship service and picnic is planned for July 26 at 11:00 AM at Rustic Park in Birdsboro. This get together is sponsored by St Mark's Birdsboro, Schwarzwald Lutheran, and St Paul Douglasville. Reformation is invited to join and participate. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided, but, please bring a dish to share.

Health Ministry will be sponsoring a **Blood Drive**. Mark your calendar. Please consider giving the gift of life on Sunday, September 13, 2026. We will be having our Blood Drive in the social hall from 8:00 to 2:00 pm. There will be sign-up sheet or website to sign up for your preferred time. Let us make this successful for Miller Keystone Blood Bank. There is an urgent need for blood.

God's Work Our Hands: Planning has already started for our God's Work Our Hands Sunday, which is on September 13th. We are already teaming up with Opportunity House and undertaking their "Fill the Truck" challenge. Blood donations are scheduled and a blessing of the quilts is on the agenda. However, if any committee, group or individual has any other activities contemplated, please contact the front office with a brief description so we can start lining everything up. It is never too early to start. More information will be forthcoming as information rolls in and plans firm up.