

Reformation Lutheran Church

3670 Perkiomen Avenue

Reading, PA 19606

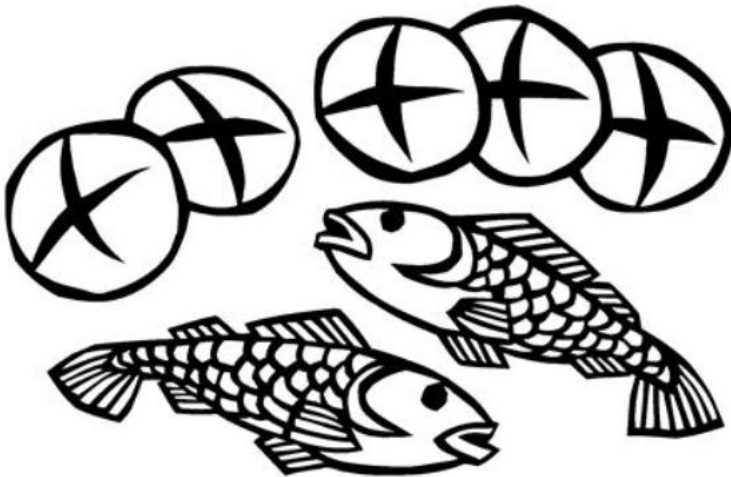
www.reformationlutheran.org

Office (610) 779-0534

Pastor Stoddard (610) 334-1285

10th Sunday after Pentecost
A Service of Word and Sacrament

August 2nd, 2026
9:30 AM



Welcome to Reformation!

Presiding Minister: The Rev. Mark Christy
Director of Music: Dr. Heidi Rochlin

Ushers	Bob Rutherford and Bruce Seiz
Reader	Alan Blackburn
Assisting Minister	Cynthia Smoker-Johnston
Acolyte	Dee Dee Werner
Altar Guild	Maddie and Ryan Klinikowski
Flowers	Smoker-Johnston family-in memory of Mother, Grandmother Dorothy Smoker's birthday
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.

Here I Am to Worship

Found in the spiral Contemporary hymnal

Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You

[Chorus]

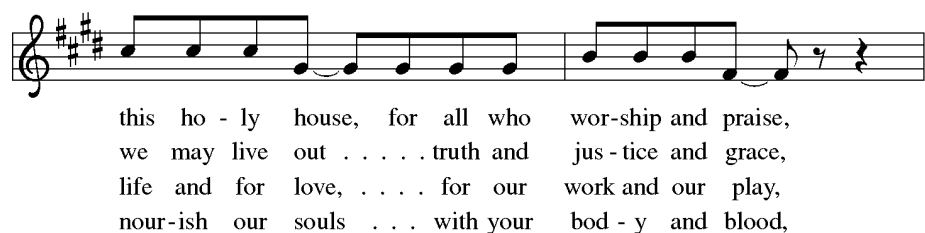
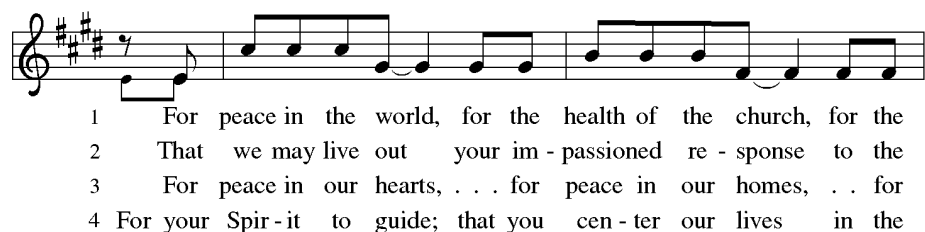
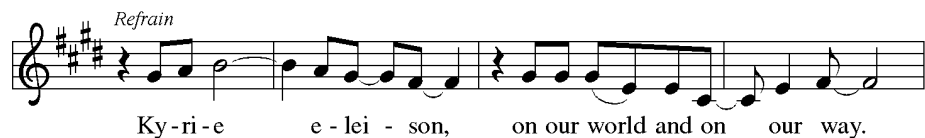
And here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that you're my God
You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

King of all days
Oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly you came to the earth you created
All for love's sake became poor [Chorus]

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:



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray,

Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The assembly may be seated.

FIRST READING – ISAIAH 55:1-5

¹ Hear, everyone who thirsts;

come to the waters;

and you who have no money,

come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk

without money and without price.

² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread

and your earnings for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,

and delight yourselves in rich food.

³ Incline your ear, and come to me;

listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,

my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples,

a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵ Now you shall call nations that you do not know,

and nations that do not know you shall run to you,

because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,

for he has glorified you.

SECOND READING – ROMANS 9:1-5

¹ I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience

confirms it by the Holy Spirit—² I have great sorrow and unceasing

anguish in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed

and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own brothers and sisters,

my own flesh and blood. ⁴ They are Israelites, and to them belong the

adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship,

and the promises; ⁵ to them belong the patriarchs, and from them,

according to the flesh, comes the Christ, who is over all, God blessed

forever. Amen.

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL – MATTHEW 14:13-21

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Now when Jesus heard [about the beheading of John the Baptist,] he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵ When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” ¹⁷ They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.” ¹⁸ And he said, “Bring them here to me.” ¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ And all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly may be seated.

SERMON

The assembly stands.

We Come to the Hungry Feast

1 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a word of peace.
 2 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a world re - leased
 3 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry that the hun - ger cease,



To hun - gry hearts un - sat - is - fied the love of God is
 from hun - gry folk of ev - 'ry kind, the poor in bod - y,
 and know - ing, though we eat our fill, the hun - ger will stay



not de - nied. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
 poor in mind. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
 with us; still we come, we come to the hun - gry feast.

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

Nearer My God to Thee, *by Lowell Mason*

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.**

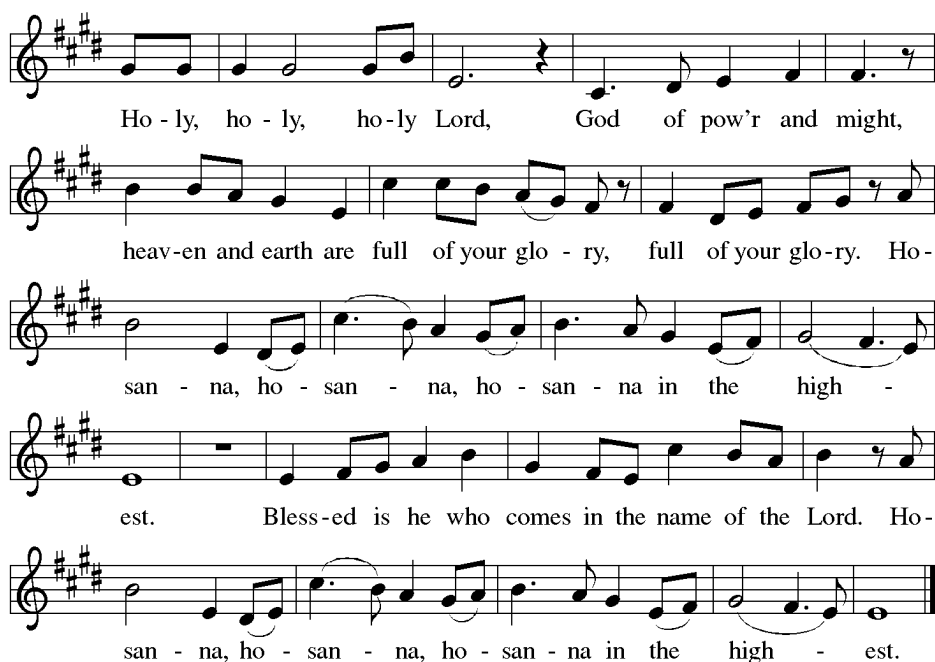
GREAT THANKSGIVING

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,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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

In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

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.**

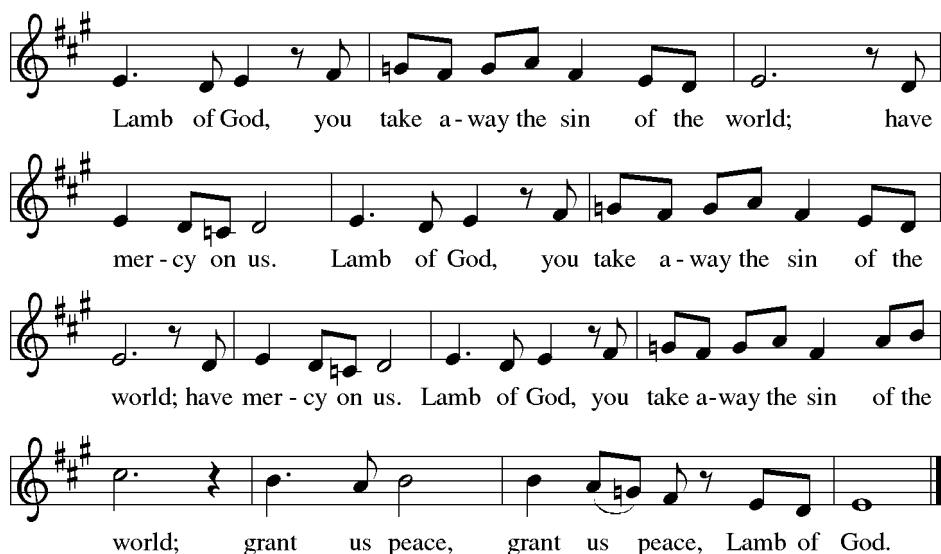
**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION & COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

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

United at the Table

ELW 498

Refrain / Estribillo



U - ni - dos en la fies - ta, la a - le - grí - a
U - nit - ed at the ta - ble: all our joy is



se ha - ce can - ción. U - ni - dos en la fe,
joined in song. U - nit - ed in the faith:



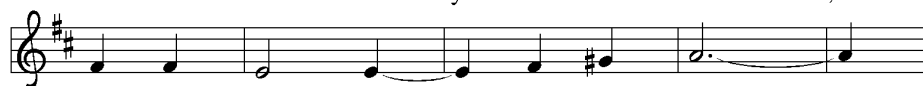
la a - le - grí - a se ha - ce o - ra - ción.
all our joy to God be - longs.



1 Can - ta - re - mos al Se - ñor
1 We will praise God, we will sing
2 We will praise God, we will feast
3 We will praise God, we will play



a - le - lu - yas con him - nos y sal - mos,
al - le - lu - ias with hymns and with psalm - o - dy;
at the boun - ti - ful ta - ble of life and grace;
al - le - lu - ias with rhy - thm and in - stru - ments;



por - que gran - de es el a - mor
we will praise God for the love
we will praise God and give thanks
we will praise God for the love

Refrain / Estribillo



que en no - so - tros por siem - pre mos - tró.
that sus - tains us e - ter - nal - ly.
for com - mu - nion with ev - 'ry race.
that in - vites all cre - a - tion to dance.

1 For the bread which you have bro - ken, for the wine which you have poured,
 2 By this prom - ise that you love us, by your gift of peace re - stored,
 3 With the saints who now a - dore you, seat-ed at the heav'n - ly board,
 4 In your ser - vice, Lord, de - fend us; in our hearts keep watch and ward;

for the words which you have spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.
 by your call to heav'n a - bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord.
 may the church still wait - ing for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.
 in the world to which you send us let your king-dom come, O 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, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **Amen.**

Praise and Thanksgiving

1 Praise and thanks-giv - ing, God, we would of - fer for all things
 2 God, bless the la - bor we bring to serve you, that with our
 3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing food for your chil - dren, by Wis - dom's
 4 Then will your bless - ing reach ev - 'ry peo - ple, free - ly con -

liv - ing, you have made good: har - vest of sown fields, fruits of the
 neigh - bor we may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, we would work
 guid - ing teach us to share one with an - oth - er, so that, re -
 fess - ing your gra - cious hand. Where you are reign - ing, no one will

or - chard, hay from the mown fields, blos - som and wood.
 with you, har - vest - ing, mill - ing for dai - ly bread.
 joic - ing with us, all oth - ers may know your care.
 hun - ger; your love sus - tain - ing show - ers the land.

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

PRAYER LIST

Added Valerie Entner, family of Hank Narvaez

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, Rod and Patti Kline, Cheryl Manella, Pat Schonour, Scott, Linda Sell,, Elinor Snyder, Jack Swartz, Erica Sweigert, and Herb Zettlemoyer

Friends of Reformation: 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, Valerie Entner, Judi and Carl Esterly, Ethan, Susan Flicker, Francis, Greg Geesaman, Robert Granko, Brian Gruber, Gino Hinnersthit, 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,, Tom Mulvey, 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, Taylor Tenuta, Grace Vetter, Erika Wesch, and the family of Hank Narvaez

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

Next Week's Worship Leaders:

August 2nd

Ushers	Dan and Taylor Bergey
Reader	Terri Adams
Assisting Minister	Pam Schneeberger
Acolyte	Paige Bergey

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 – We will be sorting and filling bookbags today immediately after church and tomorrow, 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 will not be sorting or opening the Clothing Bank on Tuesday, August 11th or Friday, August 21st.

Family Promise – Monday Meal Ministry. It is Reformation's turn to bring dinners to the families in the 3 Family Promise homes. We will be bringing dinners on Monday, August 3rd and August 10th. Dinners should arrive at the homes around 6 PM, unless otherwise directed. A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex starting today. Dinners should be warm, and can be simple, even a pizza will work. The families enjoy a dessert as well. You do not need to bring drinks. The sign-up sheet has addresses, family size, and allergies, along with a paper with addresses to take with you. We are adding a goody bag to be delivered to each family. It could contain items such as toilet paper, paper towels, Clorox wipes, prayer shawl, blanket or comforter (we have). The bag could have infant blanket, wipers or diapers. If you wish to donate paper towels, tissues, baby wipes, toilet paper, Clorox wipes, size 4 or 6 diapers. There will be a container in ramp hallway to place your donations. Goody bags will be put together on Sunday, the people making a meal for their family may pick it up and deliver along with their meal on Monday night. Any questions, call Pam Schneeberger at 610.370.0790 or 484.599.1028.

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.

Call Committee Update: Where We Are in the Process

Reformation is now moving into the next phase of the call process as outlined by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. According to the synod's official steps, we have completed Steps 1–6, which include establishing a transition pastor, forming the call committee, and completing our Ministry Site Profile (MSP).

With the MSP finalized, we recently met with Rev. Zach Labagh, the Associate to the Bishop for our mission district, to review our materials and prepare for the interview stage. All documentation has been submitted, and Reformation is now listed on the Synod's Available Calls page as actively seeking a pastor.

This means we have officially entered Step 7: The call committee is now in the queue to receive Rostered Minister Profiles of potential candidates.

During this stage, the synod reviews available pastors and prayerfully discerns which candidates may be a good match for our congregation. Once names are sent to us, we will move into the interview phase. Confidentiality is essential throughout this part of the process. While we cannot share details about candidates, the call committee will continue to keep the congregation informed about where we are in the overall timeline. We have been told that the transition of the new Synod Bishop will not affect our timeline. We deeply appreciate the patience, prayers, and support of the congregation as we wait for the next steps to unfold. Please continue to pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance—for our committee, our council, the synod staff, and the pastor God is preparing to call to Reformation.

Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)

Qualified charitable distributions (QCDs) are a tax-efficient way for eligible personnel, to support designated charitable organizations, while satisfying IRS required minimum distributions (RMDs) from their Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs). A QCD distribution/donation allows individuals, age 70½ or older, to transfer funds directly from their IRA to a qualified charitable organization. Reformation is a

qualified charitable organization. When correctly completed, the amount donated through a QCD can count toward the individual's required minimum distribution (RMD) and is generally exempt from their taxable income.

Benefits of Using a Qualified Charitable Distribution

- Satisfies all or part of the annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) as, specified by the IRS.
- Reduces taxable income because the distribution is not generally included in federal taxable income.
- May help lower taxes on Social Security benefits and reduce the impact of income-related Medicare premium adjustments.
- Provides a meaningful way to support Reformation's church ministries and mission.

Reformation Church members who are eligible should consider using qualified charitable distributions as part of their annual financial and giving strategy. Donating directly from an IRA through a QCD allows members to fulfill their required minimum distribution, as specified by the IRS, potentially reduce their tax liability and support the ongoing work of Reformation. Qualifying distributions can be made yearly, quarterly, monthly or weekly. However, if the QCD is made to Reformation, it is suggested you consider quarterly, monthly or weekly distributions to ease the accounting and financial burden on the church. Your QCD donations will be listed in your yearly church financial statement as well as you IRS-1099 document you receive from your IRA fund. Members should consult their financial advisor or tax professional to determine whether a QCD is appropriate for you.

Council Highlights: July 21, 2026

Because of all the activity surrounding the church this summer, council held a July session, in lieu of the traditional summer break. Here are the highlights of the meeting:

- As a result of a recommendation contained in the final listening team report and with the agreement and support of the council, we plan to re-establish the Mutual Ministry Committee. A work group has been formed to review church constitutional requirements, the duties and best form for the committee. This positively supports our desire for open communication throughout the congregational family.

- In an effort to better schedule Sunday activities and encourage attendance, we will look in to setting up a better time schedule for worship service, Sunday school and any other event occurring on Sunday. New ideas and activities are welcome.
- In support of church finances, we are planning a fall stewardship drive. More information will follow.
- God's Work Our Hands "Fill the Truck" is moving forward. Opportunity House has approved our poster and flier, will mass print the poster and a bulletin insert for our distribution. They are also providing a short internet piece we can post on Facebook and our website. We have a Thrivent action team to help pay for the cost of our in-house informational flier, thus giving us a complete/enhanced 2-piece information package for distribution. We are meeting with St Marks to discuss their participation, along with Schwarzwald Lutheran, in our "Fill the Truck" effort. The Exeter Fire Dept has agreed to assist by posting information throughout the firehouses in Berks. Our Boy Scout Troup will help on August 12th-13th with material handling. They will also distribute fliers in the community. The Exeter School system, through our contact with the organizer of the senior band car wash, will electronically post our flier and poster on the school media and club platform. The Health Ministry is organizing a blood drive. Please be sure to sign-up. The quilters have scheduled a blessing of the quilts during Sunday service. There might even be a special yoga session. Plenty going on – sign-up, gather items for the truck, ask questions and if able please step up to the plate.
- Pave the Road is gaining momentum. Thanks to everyone who attended the July 12th meeting. Information is quickly being assembled. Check with council and committee members on topics or thoughts you want to add to the effort. The project is designed to inform and invite you to be part of the process. Please submit your final information no later than the 3rd Sunday in August.
- The Nominating Committee is forming and will be looking to talk to candidates for open positions on next year's council. Please take the time to talk to them and consider volunteering for these important positions.
- As a result of discussions with the Call Committee and Synod, we are considering establishing a sabbatical leave policy for rostered members of the church. The sabbatical process is designed to allow study, reflection and growth for rostered church personnel. The end

result is to improve pastoral service and church mission fulfillment. A work group has been formed to study and recommend action on this concept. More information will follow as the team meets and works through the process.

- Pastor Stoddard and council have signed an extension of service contract as designated pastor for the period 1 Sept - 31 Dec 2026.
- Finally, but, most important, our parish book has been posted on the Synod list of churches looking for a permanent pastoral candidate. Please take some time and look at the excellent status report, in the newsletter and bulletin, provided by our committee.