# THE LITURGY OF WORD & SACRAMENT

# The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost SUNDAY, August 10, 2025 10:00AM

REGULAR PRINT = PRESIDING MINISTER OR ASSISTING MINISTER **BOLD PRINT** = CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSES

₩ = AT VARIOUS POINTS THROUGHOUT THE SERVICE, THE SIGN OF THE CROSS MAY BE MADE BY ALL IN REMEMBRANCE OF THEIR BAPTISM

The red EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP service book and hymnal is used for the liturgy.

#### WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

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

#### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

(We Stand)

Words to be spoken or sung by the assembly are indicated in **bold type**.

#### **Prelude**

#### **CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

When we don't know how or what to pray, the Spirit knows. When all we can muster are sighs and groans, the Spirit knows those also. When we feel that we aren't even worthy to approach God, the Spirit goes before us and with us and God welcomes us with arms open.

Amen.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

Let us confess our sins together, saying,

God of amazing love and unexpected grace, open our eyes that we may see You especially in those times when we feel abandoned by You; forgive us that we so easily allow circumstance to blind us to Your Presence.

Touch our lives that we may know You especially in those times when we feel unable to cope; forgive us that we too frequently mistrust Your power.

Fill our hearts that we may become like You especially when Your message needs to be heard; Forgive us that we forget who we are: children of God with Your Spirit in us.

Those who are in Christ are a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God with whom we have been reconciled through Christ. (2 Cor. 5:17-18)

Thanks be to God!

# My Faith Looks Up to Thee



- 1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal va ry,
- 2 May thy rich grace im part strength to my faint ing heart,
- 3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a round me spread,
- 4 When ends life's tran sient dream, when death's cold, sul len stream





Text: Ray Palmer, 1808-1887

Music: OLIVET, Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

# APOSTOLIC 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.

# LITANY OF WELCOME

God has shown us what is good, and what then is required of us?

To act justly; to love mercy;
and to walk humbly with our God.

Micah 6: 8

II Corinthians 13: 13

Jesus says, "Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the One who sent me."

Matthew 10: 40

The Spirit says, "Come."

Let each one who hears the Spirit say, "Come," Revelation 22: 17 for all are welcome here.

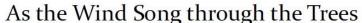
In this service, let us draw near to our Reconciling Redeemer, who knows our hearts and is able to mend our souls, to strengthen and sustain us, to reconcile our broken relationships and heal our wounds.

Let us worship God now

With words that proclaim God's inclusive love, With works that bring forth God's powerful justice, And with worship that rejoices in God's wondrous presence, Now and always,

Amen!

#### HYMN OF PRAISE





#### The PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray...

Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

#### WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and psalm.

FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-6

A reading from Genesis.

<sup>1</sup> After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup> But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." <sup>4</sup> But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup> He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>6</sup> And he believed the LORD, and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**PSALM: Psalm 33:12-22** 

Read responsively

- <sup>12</sup> Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.
- <sup>13</sup> The LORD looks down from heaven; he sees all humankind.
- <sup>14</sup> From where he sits enthroned he watches all the inhabitants of the earth—
- <sup>15</sup> he who fashions the hearts of them all and observes all their deeds.
- <sup>16</sup> A king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.
- <sup>17</sup> The war horse is a vain hope for victory, and by its great might it cannot save.
- <sup>18</sup> Truly the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love,
- <sup>19</sup> to deliver their soul from death and to keep them alive in famine.
- <sup>20</sup> Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and shield.
- <sup>21</sup> Our heart is glad in him

because we trust in his holy name. <sup>22</sup> Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us.

even as we hope in vou.

# **SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16**

A reading from Hebrews.

<sup>1</sup> Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup> Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. <sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

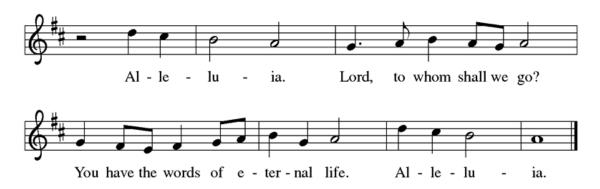
<sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup> By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup> For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. <sup>11</sup> By faith. with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup> Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

<sup>13</sup> All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, <sup>14</sup> for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup> If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

**GOSPEL: Luke 12:32-40** 

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said:] <sup>32</sup> "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup> Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. <sup>35</sup> "Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; <sup>36</sup> be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup> Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup> If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. <sup>39</sup> "But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>40</sup> You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

**SERMON** Pastor Steven

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

sun.

# O God, Our Help in Ages Past



- God, our help a - ges past, our hope for years to in
- Un der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
- Be fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame, in your sight are like thou-sand a - ges eve - ning gone, an



- 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all our years away; they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the op'ning day.
- 6 O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, still be our guard while troubles last and our eternal home.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt. Music: St. Anne, William Croft, 1678-1727

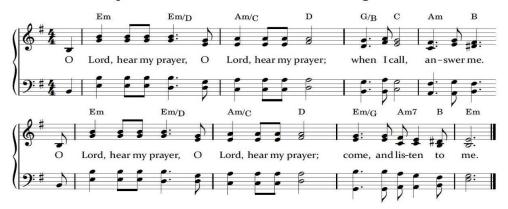
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#### **Apostles' Creed**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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.

# Prayers of the Church and Response



In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

#### A brief silence.

Keep the heart of your church set firmly in you so that, with lamps lit and attentive to Christ's call at any time or place, your people are ready to respond with faithful action for the sake of the world. Worlds were prepared by your word. Speak healing and protection upon the earth, especially where life and habitats are threatened. Guide the work of astronomers and all who teach us about the stars and galaxies. God of grace,

#### O Lord, hear my prayer...

You know the actions and deeds of the nations. Turn humanity away from instruments of war and violence. Fashion the hearts of world leaders to work for peace. Let your lovingkindness be on those in need. Assure all who are afraid or experiencing great uncertainty that your promises are sure. Calm the fears of migrants and refugees who set out, not knowing where they go. Provide shelter, sustenance, protection from harm, and welcome. Bless the work of Global Refuge and other means of support and advocacy. God of grace,

## O Lord, hear my prayer...

Command your angels concerning all who are sick, especially those we remember silently in our hearts and with voice upon our lips (pause) *Maria Gallego* (mother of Pastor Steven); *Tiffanie Reeves; Marcus Mann* (father of Marc Mann); *Joe Black* (father of Lynn Black); *Bill Black* (brother of Lynn Black); *Sharon Baldwin; Tracy Hamiter; Connie Pool; Emmy Reeves; Bobbie Prosser; Sarah Trani; Jeff Harrell; James Deckle; Candy Pennington*, (friend of Peg Thompson), *Sharon May* (wife of Peggy Thompson). God of grace,

#### O Lord, hear my prayer...

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.** 

PEACE ELW pg. 106

The peace of Christ be with you always.

#### And also with you!

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

The assembly is seated.

#### The OFFERING & OFFERTORY

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

**Offertory Anthem** 

"God Will Take Care of You"

Choir – UMC#130

1 Be not dismayed whate'er betide; God will take care of you. Beneath His wings of love abide; God will take care of you.

[Refrain] God will take care of you, through ev'ry day, o'er all the way. He will take care of you; God will take care of you.

2 Through days of toil when heart doth fail, God will take care of you. When dangers fierce your path assail, God will take care of you. [Refrain]

3 All you may need He will provide; God will take care of you. Nothing you ask will be denied; God will take care of you. [Refrain]

4 No matter what may be the test, God will take care of you. Lean, weary one, upon His breast; God will take care of you. [Refrain]

The author of this hymn, Civilla D. Martin, was born in Nova Scotia 160 years ago on August 21, 1866. She wrote literally hundreds of hymns and Gospel songs, most famously "God Will Take Care of You" (1904), "His Eye Is on the Sparrow" (1906), and "The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power" (1912).

She passed away in Atlanta, Georgia in March of 1948.

# Doxology



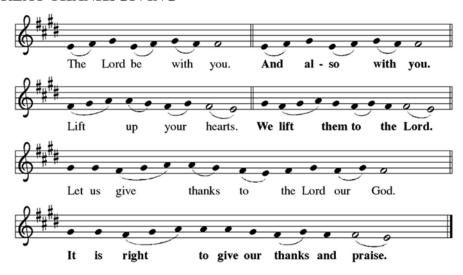
#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

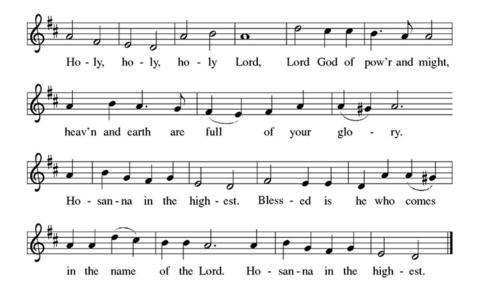
#### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**



#### PREFACE and SANCTUS

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

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:



#### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting, and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

All creation sings your praise.

Sun, moon, and stars reflect your glory.

Mountains, lakes, and forests declare your wonders.

With Sarah and Abraham, we go out in faith, trusting your promise.

With Miriam and Moses we celebrate our deliverance from bondage.

With Naomi and Ruth we bind ourselves together in covenant love.

With Jonathan and David we delight in the gift of deep and abiding friendship.

With Mary and Elizabeth we welcome your presence in the birth of Jesus, the Holy One.

With Lazarus, Martha, and Mary, we give thanks for the blessings of family.

With disciples and followers we marvel at the reign of God come near.

With saints through the ages we ponder the mystery of Christ's dying and rising.

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.

With hearts full of memories and hopes, we break this bread and share this cup, remembering the death and resurrection of Christ, and his promise to be with us always,

as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

O Divine Lover, you are the breath within us. You are our heart's desire.

You are our priceless treasure. You are the garden of paradise.

Come down, O Love divine. Come among us, O passionate Fire.

Come within us, O Spirit of unity. Come, Holy Spirit.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Bless us, O Lord, and these your gifts, which we are about to receive from your bounty.

Bless our table and the feast we share. Bless us with gladness of heart. Come, Holy Spirit.

Come, Holy Spirit.

At this table, make us your body. Form us to be people of justice and peace. Fill us with gratitude and generosity that we may bear the fruit of love in word and deed.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Praise to you, Author of creation.

Praise to you, O Beloved One.

Praise to you, O Giver of all good things.

Praise to you, blessed and holy Trinity, one God, now and forever.

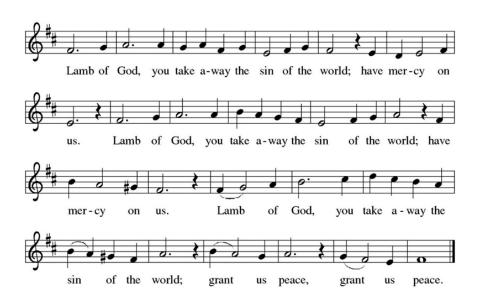
Amen.

#### THE 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.

#### LAMB OF GOD



#### THE COMMUNION OF THE BELOVED

In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy. Come to the banquet. Amen.

The assembly is seated.

#### AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR WORSHIP IS THIS SHARED MEAL

ALL ARE WELCOME to join us as members of God's family in Christ, as we share in this powerful gift of God's love and grace for the whole human family. We gather around the altar, kneeling or standing, wherever there is a place. The presiding minister offers wheaten wafers but can provide a gluten free wafer by request.

The assisting minister offers individual cups of wine (red) or grape juice (white) for you to choose. The church also affirms our Lord's full presence in, with, and under each element alone. If you prefer to commune in your pew with a prepackaged communion set, please alert an usher.

#### COMMUNION SONG

ELW#461 (Red book)

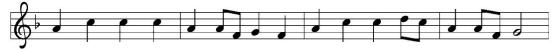
# All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly



- 1 All who hun -ger, gath-er glad - ly; ho - ly man - na is our bread.
- 2 All who hun-ger, nev-er wel-come guest. strang-ers; seek - er. be a
- 3 All who hun-ger, sing to geth - er. Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.



Come from wil-der - ness and wan - d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed. Come from rest-less - ness and Here in keep the feast. roam - ing. joy we Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here in have been fed. peace we



a-round us You that yearn for days of full-ness, all food. is our We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood. Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat-i tude.



Taste and see the Taste and see that God is good. grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good. Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

#### **COMMUNION HYMN**

# Jesus, Lamb of God, Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name; Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name.

The assembly stands and the presiding minister says a table blessing.

#### THE 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.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.. **Amen.** 

#### **COMMISSION and BENEDICTION**

Go now, and live before God in openness and integrity.

Set your minds on the ways of God,

not clinging to your own life,

but taking up your cross and following Jesus.

And may God give you a share in the eternal covenant;

May Christ Jesus be proud of you when he comes in glory;

And may the Holy Spirit make you grow strong in faith and lead you in the ways of righteousness.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord, In the name of Christ. Amen.

# Come, We That Love the Lord We're Marching to Zion



- 1 Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;
- Let those re fuse to sing who nev - er knew our God: 3 The hill of on yields thou-sand sa cred sweets a
- 4 Then let our songs a-bound, and ev 'ry tear be dry;



ac - cord, join a song with sweet join in song with the heav'n - ly King, but but chil - dren of chil - dren of we reach the heav'n - ly fields, be - fore we reach the we're march-ing through Im - man - uel's ground, we're march-ing through Im -



sweet ac-cord and thus sur-round the throne, and thus sur-round the throne. heav'n-ly King may tell their joys a-broad, may tell their joys a - broad. heav'n-ly fields, or walk the gold-en streets, or walk the gold-en streets. man-uel's ground, to fair - er worlds on high, to fair - er worlds on high.





we're march-ing up-ward to Zi - on, the beau-ti-ful cit-y of God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, stanzas; Robert Lowry, 1826–1899, refrain Music: MARCHING TO ZION, Robert Lowry

#### DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

#### **POSTLUDE**

#### Announcements

#### **TODAY - Congregational Meeting Sunday August 10**

All members of Reformation are encouraged to attend a congregational meeting after service, today, August 10 to discuss church finances and consider action related to the church's mission support giving and the possible sale of the small parking lot. Please contact Pastor Steven or any member of council with any questions.

## Wednesday Night Fellowship

On **August 20th** we continue with the fourth installment of Lutheranism 101. Bring your dinner and have some great conversations about what it means to be Lutheran.

# **Back-to-School Supply Drive – Help Us Bless Local Families!**

Reformation Lutheran Church is collecting school supplies to support children and families in need as they prepare for the 2025–2026 school year. Your donations will help equip students with the tools they need to succeed! Donations can be dropped off in the designated bins located in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall today! Let's come together as a church family to share God's love and help our neighbors start the school year strong!

#### Rally Day September 7th

Join us for 100% attendance on Sunday and Rally Day on September 7th. We will have a potluck, games, the dedication of the nursery, and the launching of Kids Kingdom.

#### **New Blue Envelopes Available in the Pews**

Thank you to all who faithfully use the blue pew envelopes to support the mission and ministry of Reformation Lutheran Church. Your gifts sustain the wide variety of programs, outreach efforts, and worship life of our congregation. The pew racks have been replenished, making it easier to make a recorded contribution. If you are behind on your 2025 pledge or haven't started giving, we encourage you to do what you can to catch up.

We are currently behind in our anticipated giving and appreciate any effort to help close the gap. A special thank you to those who continue to give faithfully and regularly — your generosity helps us serve God and neighbor through Reformation Church.

#### Would You Be Willing to Make Prayer Shawls?

The Kindness Team is excited to share that we will be replacing coffee mugs in our new member welcome bags with handmade *prayer shawls*—a more personal and meaningful gift for each household. If you knit or crochet, we would love for you to join us in this ministry. We typically receive new members quarterly (on 5th Sundays), with an average of 5 or more households joining each time. There is no specific pattern or color required, though **red** is a meaningful color for Reformation. A typical shawl measures approximately **57–58 inches long** and **24–36 inches wide**, but the design is left to the creative heart of the maker.

If you're willing to contribute, please contact **Lynn Black** or **Dot Jeffcoat** to get involved.

#### **Coffee Hour**

If you can help out with coffee hour, check with Alicia Javis. You can help by providing foods and/or by helping her set up and clean up. This is an important part of our hospitality and kindness ministry. Kindness is contagious.

Announcements to share - To include information from your committee or task group, submit brief messages (2-4 sentences) to the church office by Monday at Noon - officeofreform@gmail.com.

## REFORMATION LUTHERAN IS AN INCLUSIVE, LGBTQIA+ AFFIRMING church





that believes Christ calls us to serve others with joy. Safe Space Dinners, a ministry for homeless LGBTQIA+ youth, including people of color. The ministry is simple. On the second and fourth Thursday of each month, these youth (14-23 years old) are offered a safe space and time to gather for a time to rest and recharge, a home-cooked meal, a haircut, and a backpack of items they will find helpful in their day-to-day life. There are always a number of gamesto play, including video games. Sometimes we have entertainment from the community. There is no preaching, no conversion therapy attempts; only support and comfort. This is a ministry of giving – nothing more.

#### OPPORTUNITIES of WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP

In Person Sunday Worship Livestream - 10:00 am-11:00 am <a href="www.reformationcae.org">www.reformationcae.org</a> Coffee Hour is held after the worship service in the Reformation Fellowship Hall.

#### Welcome to Reformation Lutheran Church

Whether you are visiting today or a longtime member, we are grateful to gather with you in worship. Our community is rooted in love, service, and the grace of Christ. If you're visiting, please fill out a visitor card located in the back of the pew and place it in the offering receptacle. We would love to keep in touch with you.

#### **Stay Connected!**

Follow us online:

Facebook: ReformationLutheranColumbiaSC

Instagram: <u>@reformationlutherancola</u>

YouTube: <u>@Reformation1118</u>

**Stay Informed!** 

Visit reformationcae.org and click the red box at the bottom of the page to sign up.

Google Group: Reformation Church Group News, Announcements

Constant Contact: Sympathy Notices, Weekly Announcements, Upcoming Events

Thank you for being connected and informed!