

THE LITURGY OF WORD & SACRAMENT

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Welcome Sunday

SUNDAY, August 30, 2026 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.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

(We Stand)

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

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,
whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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.

Call to Worship:

Praise be to God,
who rescues us from the power of darkness;
who redeems us, and sets us free!
Praise be to Jesus Christ, the first born of all creation,
through whom all things were made,
in heaven and on the earth.
Praise be to the Spirit of God,
whose presence sustains us,
and whose breath renews all creation.
Behold! I am making all things new!
Come, O God, and make your home among us.
Pour out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

GATHERING HYMN

The Old Rugged Cross

George Bennard, 1873-1958

1. On a hill far a - way stood an old rug-ged cross,
2. Oh, that old rug-ged cross, so de - spised by the world,
3. In the old rug-ged cross, stained with blood so di - vine,
4. To the old rug-ged cross I will ev - er be true,

The em - blem of suf - fring and shame;
Has a won - drous at - trac - tion for me;
A won - drous beau - ty I see;
Its shame and re - proach glad - ly bear;

And I love that old cross where the dear - est and best
For the dear Lamb of God left His glo - ry a - bove
For 'twas on that old cross Je - sus suf - fered and died
Then He'll call me some - day to my home far a - way,

for a world of lost sin - ners was slain.
To bear it to dark Cal - va - ry.
To par - don and sanc - ti - fy me.
Where His glo - ry for - ev - er I'll share.

So I'll cher - ish the old rug-ged cross, 'Til my tro-phies at last I lay down;

I will cling to the old rug-ged cross, And ex - change it some-day for a crown.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

II Corinthians 13: 13

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

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,"
for all are welcome here.**

Revelation 22: 17

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!

Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs



1 Come, let us join our cheer-ful songs with an-gels round the throne;
 2 "Wor - thy the Lamb that died," they cry, "to be ex - alt - ed thus!"
 3 Je - sus is wor - thy to re-ceive hon - or and pow'r di - vine;
 4 Let all cre - a - tion join in one to bless the sa - cred name



ten thou-sand thou - sand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.
 "Wor - thy the Lamb," our lips re - ply, "for he was slain for us!"
 and bless-ings, more than we can give, be, Lord, for - ev - er thine.
 of God who sits up - on the throne, and to a - dore the Lamb.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: NUN DANKET ALL, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

The PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.**

The assembly is seated.

Children's Message

Pastor Steven

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

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

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.

PSALM: Psalm 26:1-8

Read responsively

- ¹ Vindicate me, O LORD,
for I have walked in my integrity,
and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.
- ² **Prove me, O LORD, and try me;
test my heart and mind.**
- ³ For your steadfast love is before my eyes,
and I walk in faithfulness to you.
- ⁴ **I do not sit with the worthless,
nor do I consort with hypocrites;**
- ⁵ I hate the company of evildoers
and will not sit with the wicked.
- ⁶ I wash my hands in innocence
and go around your altar, O LORD,
- ⁷ singing aloud a song of thanksgiving
and telling all your wondrous deeds.
- ⁸ **O LORD, I love the house in which you dwell
and the place where your glory abides.**

SECOND READING: Romans 6:15-23

A reading from Romans.

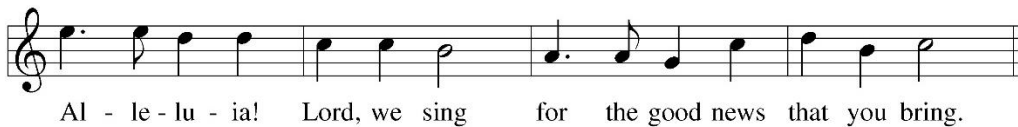
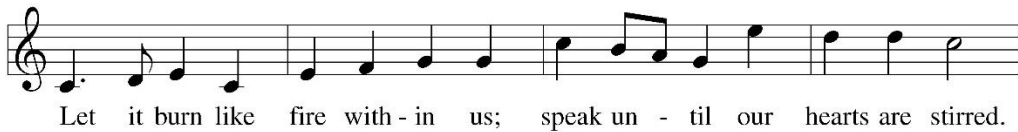
¹⁵ What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶ Do you not know that, if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God that you who were slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted ¹⁸ and that you, having been set free from sin, have become enslaved to righteousness. ¹⁹ I am speaking in human terms because of your limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and lawlessness, leading to even more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, leading to sanctification.

²⁰ When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ So what fruit did you then gain from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. ²² But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the fruit you have leads to sanctification, and the end is eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Lord and Savior



The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

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.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

Pastor Steven

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

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
 2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
 there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
 help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
 till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

The service then continues with the affirmation of faith.

Affirmation of Faith

Let us join together in proclaiming our faith:

**We believe in you, O God, who spoke all life into being,
author of heaven and earth, architect of time,
quilter of the cosmos.**

**You shape our bodies from the dust of the ground,
and by your breath we are given life.**

**We believe in you, O God, who became incarnate in Jesus Christ,
the Word made flesh, truly divine and truly human.**

**You lived among us to reveal your justice,
died among us to break the bonds of sin and death,
and were raised among us to bring abundant life.**

**We believe in you, O God, who transforms us by the Holy Spirit,
draws us into community, moves us to action,
and inspires us to hope against hope.**

**You breathe new life into a fallen world
and equip us to proclaim the Good News of resurrecting love.**

**All thanks and praise to you, O God,
our beginning and our end. Amen.**

The service then continues with the prayers of intercession.

Prayers of the Church and Response

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It is written for piano in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The score consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a melody line with notes and rests, and the bass staff has a harmonic accompaniment. Above the treble staff, the lyrics are written: 'O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer; when I call, an-swer me.' Above the bass staff, the lyrics are: 'O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer; come, and lis-ten to me.' The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. Above the treble staff, the lyrics are: 'O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer; come, and lis-ten to me.' Above the bass staff, the lyrics are: 'O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer; come, and lis-ten to me.' The score includes various chords indicated by letters above the notes: Em, Em/D, Am/C, D, G/B, C, Am, B, Em, Em/D, Am/C, D, Em/G, Am7, B, Em.

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silent

For the church in every land, that its mission and ministry is anchored in the love of Christ. When threats or challenges arise, teach us to take up our cross and follow you in faith. For the nations and all in authority, that they seek to live in peace with one another. Bless the work of international and diplomatic organizations and all who work to bring peace to a world scarred by violence. Merciful God,

O Lord, hear my prayer...

For all those in need, that they be satisfied. Ensure all your children have safe access to food, water, shelter, and medical care. Bring healing to all who bear wounds in body, mind, and spirit. For the congregation gathered here to serve you, that they remain strong in faith and united in purpose. Guide our committees, study groups, and other meetings toward honesty and humility, always seeking genuine love. Merciful God,

O Lord, hear my prayer...

We lift up before you, O God, the members of our human family around the world—for those who are afflicted or suffering at this time—for those who need healing, for those who require bread or shelter, for those who live in violent homes and communities, for those who are grieving, and for those whose needs are known to you alone, especially those we remember silently or in our hearts with voice upon our lips (*pause*) Lisa Gardener, Frosty Lohr, Micaela (*niece of Peggy Thompson*); Sharon May (*wife of Peggy Thompson*) Larry Harden, Nancy Beaver, Ava Jarvis (*granddaughter of Marc & Jill Mann*) David Cossey (*stepfather of Ben Bullock*); Maria Gallego (*mother of Pastor Steven*); Tiffanie Reeves; 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;. Merciful God,

O Lord, hear my prayer...

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The assembly remains standing for sharing the Peace.

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

"Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"

(African American spiritual, ca. 1750)

Choir

DOXOLOGY

Praise God the Father, Christ the Son

Irish traditional

Louis Bourgeois, 1539

Praise God the Fa-ther, Christ the Son, And Ho-ly Spir-it, Three - in One;

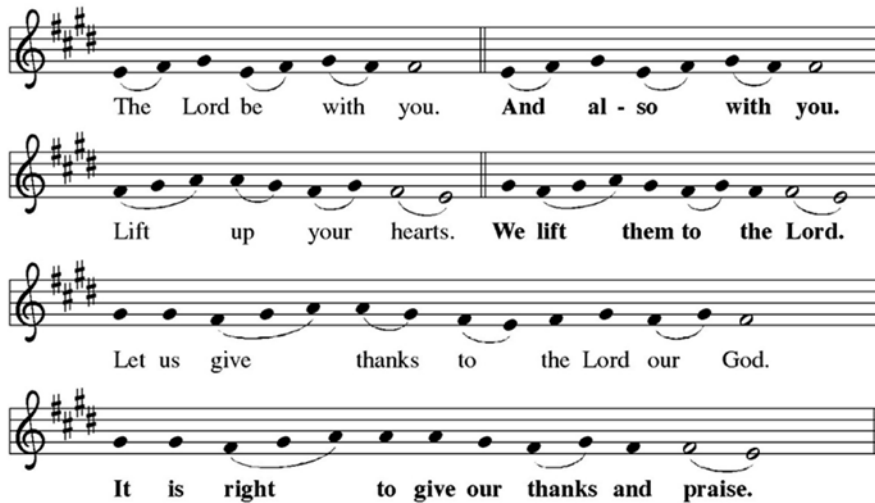
God's love pro-claim from shore to shore, For - ev-er and for - ev-er-more. A-men.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
 heav'n 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
 Your mercy is everlasting
 and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
 Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
 Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
 Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
 to the land of milk and honey.
 Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
 Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
 Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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 this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth,
burning with justice, peace, and love.
Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord's Prayer

C7 F F/E Dm Dm/C Bb C F

Our Fa - ther in heav-en, hal-low-ed be your name;

C7 F F/E Dm Dm/C Bb Gm F

Your king-dom come, Your will be done on earth as in heav-en.

Bb Am Gm Dm Gm C

Give us this day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins

Eb Dm Bb Gm C7

as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.

F F/E Dm Dm/C Bb Bb/F F

Save us from the time of trial and de - liv-er us from e - vil,

Bb Am Gm F Eb Dm Gm C7 F Bb Gm F

for the king-dom, the pow'r, and the glo-ry are yours, now and for - ev - er.

LAMB OF GOD



- 1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

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.

Let Us Break Bread Together



1 Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer-cy on me.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

COMMUNION HYMN

Jesus, Lamb of God



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.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The God of steadfastness and encouragement
grant you to live in harmony with one another,
in accordance with Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of all grace ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Lift High the Cross



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

Text and music © 1974 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

DISMISSAL

Praise God who loves us.

Praise God who cares.

POSTLUDE

Announcements

Alicia Jarvis Food Pantry

Help stock the **Alicia Jarvis Food Pantry** by bringing canned goods and placing them on the counter near the church office. Your donations help provide food for neighbors in need. If you have questions, please see **Pastor Steven**.

Dungeons & Dragons

Join us for **Dungeons & Dragons** on **August 26 at 6:00 PM** in the **Reformation Fellowship Hall**. All experience levels are welcome!

Welcome Sunday – August 30

Invite your friends and family to join us for **Welcome Sunday on August 30!** This will also be an opportunity for those who are interested in becoming members of Reformation Lutheran Church to officially join our church family.

Rally Day – September 13

Join us for **Rally Day on Sunday, September 13**, as we kick off a new church program year! Rally Day will also be our **100% Attendance Sunday**, so we encourage everyone to be present as we begin an exciting season of worship, fellowship, Bible study, and discipleship.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Beginning in September, join us for **Bible Study on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 10:00 a.m.** Come grow deeper in your understanding of Scripture and in your walk with Christ.

Discipleship Wednesday

Beginning in September, **Discipleship Wednesday** will be held on the **fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.** We'll explore practical and faith-building topics including prayer, the names and titles of God, apologetics, relationships, and more.

Church Outing – Sesquicentennial State Park

Mark your calendar for our church outing to **Sesquicentennial State Park on Saturday, September 12 at 10:00 a.m.** Please complete the survey to let us know if you are attending and whether you will bring a **dessert or side dish**.

October 24

The installation of Bishop-Elect Wade Roof will be held at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Lexington. The installation will be conducted by Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry. Additional details will be shared as they become available.

October Blood Drive

October 8 | Fellowship Hall

Give the gift of life! Our October Blood Drive will be held on Thursday, October 8, in the Fellowship Hall. Time: To Be Determined. Please watch for additional information regarding appointment times and registration.

Blessing of the Animals

Bring your beloved pets and join us for our Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 4, at 2:00 PM on the front lawn of Reformation Lutheran Church.

All are welcome as we give thanks to God for the animals that bring companionship, joy, and love into our lives.

Narcan Presentation

November 8 | Time To Be Determined

RLC will host a Narcan Presentation on Sunday, November 8. This educational presentation will provide important information about Narcan and its role in responding to an opioid overdose.

Time and additional details will be announced soon.

Keep Your Contact Information Up to Date

Help us stay connected! Please use the form in today's bulletin to update your contact information for everyone in your household. Complete the form at the beginning of worship and place it in the offering plate. If you've never submitted your information, please don't assume we have it. Keeping our records current helps us better serve and include you and your family.

Reformation T-Shirts Available

There are only **9 Reformation Lutheran Church crew neck T-shirts** remaining:

- 1 Small
- 1 Medium
- 1 Large
- 6 X-Large

Shirts are **\$26 each**. Contact **Dot Jeffcoat** or **Lynn Black** to purchase yours while supplies last.

Kindness Team Volunteers Needed

The Kindness Team is looking for volunteers to help with several upcoming outreach and hospitality projects. Sign up using the form in today's bulletin or the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

Upcoming opportunities include:

- **October 4** – Blessing of the Animals
- **October 25** – 100th Anniversary Celebration
- **October 31** – Trunk or Treat
- **November 2** – Hospitality at the Poll
- **November 22 & 29** – Advent/Christmas Decorating
- **December 2–4** – *Sights and Sounds* Setup (as needed)
- **December 5–6** – *Sights and Sounds* Event

For more information, contact **Dot Jeffcoat (Chair)** or any Kindness Team member: Lynn Black, Frosty Lohr, Clay Carlisle, Peg Thompson, Matt Haigh, Valorie & Alana Denys, or Cassandra Avant.

Next Kindness Team Meeting: Sunday, **August 30**, immediately following worship.

Save the Date: 100th Anniversary Celebration

Join us on **Sunday, October 25, 2026**, as Reformation Lutheran Church celebrates **100 years of ministry** with the theme:

A Future With Roots

Planning is underway, and we're working to invite former rostered leaders, their families, synod staff, former congregational staff, and seminary interns who have been part of Reformation's history.

If you have contact information for anyone who should receive an invitation, please share it with **Dot Jeffcoat** at **dotjeffcoat@aol.com**.

Interested in helping plan this milestone celebration? Contact Dot Jeffcoat or join the next planning meeting on **Sunday, August 30**, immediately following worship.

Meals

Many folks have asked for cooking opportunities. The Harriett Hancock Center hosts Youth OUTLOUD for LGBTQ+ youth in grades 6-12. Middle school meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays from 5-7pm and the high school meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 6-8pm. They provide meals and are looking for folks who would like to provide meals by cooking or purchasing the food. If this is something that you are interested in, please let pastor Steven know.

WORKING CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS – watch announcements for details

August

30 5th Sunday: Welcome/New Members (Kindness team)

September

6 ELCA God's Work Our Hands Sunday (pending)

7 Labor Day

Back to Church Sunday (pending)

October

4 Blessing of Animals (Kindness team)

16-17 SC PRIDE/PRIDE Sunday

24 Installation of Rev Wade Roof as new SC Synod Bishop

25 Reformation Sunday: 100th Anniversary Event (Anniversary/Kindness Team)

31 Halloween: Trunk or Treat (Kindness team)

November

Thanksgiving Service Projects (pending)

1 All Saint's Day – Daylight Savings Ends

2 Election Day Polls at RLC: Hospitality by Member Hosts (Kindness team)

- 8 Annual Meeting of the Congregation as set by Constitution
- 11 Veterans Day
- 22 Christ the King Sunday (Begin Advent decorations after church)
- 26 Thanksgiving Day
- 29 5th Sunday: Welcome/New Members –Advent Begins (continue decorating)

December

Holiday Service Projects (pending)

- 1-4 Set up week for Sights and Sounds
- 3 Nativity Set Displays set up by those sharing sets for display
- 5-6 Sights and Sounds Event for Community (Kindness team)
- 21 Longest Night/Blue Christmas Worship
- 24 Christmas Eve Worship
- 27 Lessons and Carols

Activity Chairs and Coordinators note bulletin deadline is Mondays at noon. If you have announcements, please send to the church office prior to that time to be included. Be sure to include the basics: who, what, when, where, why. Information with details helps as many as possible to be involved in our ministry and activities.

Keep Your Church Contact Information Up-to-Date
Report new information below, tear out form and put it in the offering plate.

Name(s)

Current Mailing Address

Name	Current email	Current Phone

We would like to be involved in planning and leading Reformation activities:

____ Kindness Tm (outreach)	____ Justice Tm (service)	____ Humbly Team (worship)
____ Blessing of Animals	____ Service/Season Projects	____ Worship leader
____ Trunk or Treat	____ SC PRIDE	____ VBS Event
____ Sights and Sounds	____ Safe Space	____ Clean up/work days
____ Poll Host in 2 hr shifts	____ 100 th Anniv. --Oct	Other: _____

Weekly Offering is One Way to Give Thanks to God

One of the ways we can say thanks for the presence of God in our lives and the blessings and gifts we receive daily is to make our tithe to the ministry of Reformation Church. Give each week by cash or check in the offering plate, by regular online contributions, use the web site or venmo or paypal.

How to stay up to date with what is happening at Reformation

The weekly bulletin announcements provide important information for the life of the congregation and its activities. Take time on Sunday to check them out and mark important dates. If you are not in church, did you know you can check the bulletin on line. It is posted each week on our web site for use by our online worshippers. Check it out at <https://reformationcae.org>. Find Sunday Worship Service and download bulletin. It's all there. Also watch for special announcements and weekly emails of "Happenings" for more details. You can sign up on line or contact the church office to be added to the two email groups – RLC Google Group for members and Constant Contact Group for Members and Friends.

REFORMATION LUTHERAN IS AN INCLUSIVE, LGBTQIA+ AFFIRMING congregation



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.

Do Justice:

Below is information on ways to contact your elected officials to voice your opinion on issues.

SOUTH CAROLINA ISSUES

SC state legislative issues: SC Womens' Rights and Empowerment Network (WREN) keeps you informed about legislation that affects women's rights in the state. The American Civil Liberties Union of South Carolina is broader in scope and addresses all legislation affecting civil liberties. Both sites have an "Action" section which allows one to sign petitions and call or write state officials regarding issues. Each organization also provides talking points for calls and letters; prewritten letters which can be modified are also provided. It's easy to identify your legislators on both websites.

The URLs below take you to the action section of each organization:

scwren.org/act-now

aclusc.org/actions

NATIONAL ISSUES

A popular national website for letters and petitions is resistbot. It provides an easy way to write or petition both federal and state legislators. Choose from a variety of already written letters and petitions, or write your own. Emailing officials is free with the service, or you can buy "coins" to either fax or send your correspondence via first class mail.

The URL is below:

resist.bot/petitions

If you prefer to call your federal legislators, 5Calls provides the names and phone numbers of your Congressperson and Senators, and scripts for a variety of national issues that you can use when calling them. It also provides additional talking points for each issue so that you can customize your message.

The URL is below:

5calls.org

Ask the Pastor

Have a question about the Christian faith, worship, Scripture, or life?

Pastor Steven welcomes your questions—anonynously!

Wondering why we celebrate Holy Communion? Curious about the meaning of the hanging cross in our sanctuary? Have questions about theology, marriage, Lutheran beliefs, prayer, baptism, or other topics of faith?

Simply write your question on the blank sheet provided in the back of this bulletin, or pick up an "Ask the Pastor" form from the table in the Narthex.

Place your question in the offering plate during worship. Questions may be submitted anonymously.

Listen for additional details and answers from Pastor Steven through future newsletters, educational forums, classes, and church communications.

No question is too simple or too complex. We invite you to ask, learn, and grow in faith together.

ASK YOUR QUESTION