THE LITURGY OF WORD & SACRAMENT

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost SUNDAY, September 14, 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

Visitors: We welcome you to Reformation Lutheran Church and are so glad you have chosen to join us as we worship God. We hope you find it meaningful for your faith life and that you will return.

Please complete a Visitor Card in the small pew rack and put it in the offering plate so we can thank you for coming. You may hand the card to the pastor or an usher. Also, please sign our guest register which is near the entrance.

Please join us after worship in the Fellowship Hall for our weekly fellowship time with food and beverage.

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

Prelude

(We Stand)

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.

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

Amen.

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

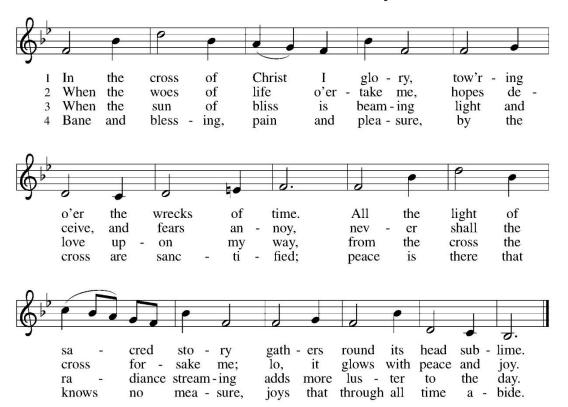
Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of \pm Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

In the Cross of Christ I Glory



Text: John Bowring, 1792-1872

Music: RATHBUN, Ithamar Conkey, 1815-1867

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!

The Beatitudes: A Litany (based on Matthew 5:3-12)

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are the lonely, for they will find friends
Blessed are the depressed, for they will be uplifted
Blessed are the broken, for they will be made whole
Blessed are the challenged, for they will win
Blessed are the impoverished, for they will receive

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are those who have suffered great loss, for they will be healed

Blessed are the empty, for they will be filled

Blessed are those who feel their spiritual poverty, for they will become rich

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are the humble and modest, for they will be rewarded

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are those believers who seek knowledge, for they will be enlightened

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are those with sympathetic hearts and sincere compassion for the spiritual needs of others, for they will be cared for

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are those who are sincere w

Blessed are those who are sincere with a true inward purity, for they will find the truth

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are active for peace, for they will find peace

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who confess Christ before men and are ridiculed for their faith, for they shall triumph

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me (Jesus). Blessed are those who are slandered for the true faith, for they are children of God

If not here on earth; then certainly in heaven. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

The PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray...

O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, 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: Numbers 21:4b-9

A reading from Numbers.

[From Mount Hor the Israelites set out,] 4b but the people became discouraged on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the

serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹ So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole, and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 98:1-4

Read responsively

¹ O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

² The LORD has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

³ He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴ Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

SECOND READING: First Corinthians 1:18-24

A reading from First Corinthians.

¹⁸ The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

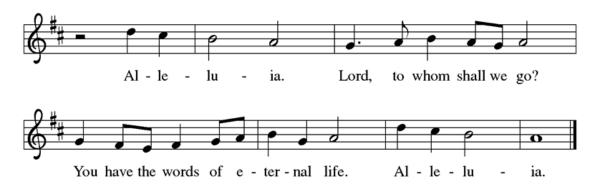
"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

- 5 ¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying:
- ³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
- ⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
- ⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
- ⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
- ⁸ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
- ⁹ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
- ¹⁰ "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ¹¹ "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

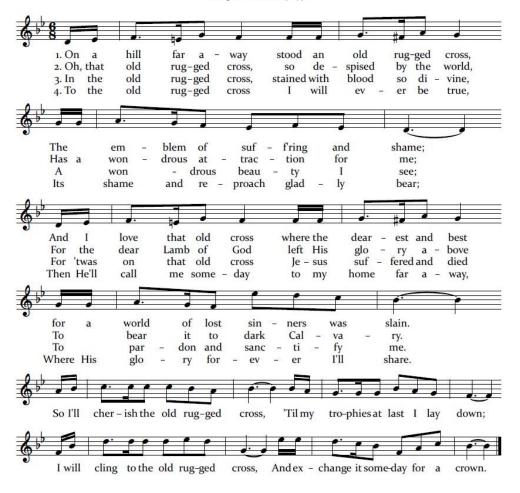
SERMON Pastor Steven

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

The Old Rugged Cross

George Bennard, 1873-1958



PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBER

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for *April*, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new *member*, into the life and ministry of this congregation.

APOSTLE'S 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.

ADDRESS AND QUESTIONS

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

April in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

Those being welcomed respond.

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for this new member in her life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

WELCOME

Let us welcome *this sister* in Christ to this community of faith.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

The service then continues with the prayers of intercession.

Prayers of the Church and Response



Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

Merciful God, pour out your grace upon your church. Forgive us for the times when we have been unfaithful, and renew our commitment to your gospel of love. Empower us to live as a community of mercy. Merciful God, we ask forgiveness for the ways we have neglected and harmed this earth and its creatures. Confirm our commitment to care for all you have made, and grant us wisdom and strength to take action toward restoring your creation to its fullness. God of grace,

O Lord, hear my prayer...

Merciful God, govern all who hold positions of power and authority. Instruct them to make just decisions that serve the common good. Make them instruments of your mercy in the world, working to heal divisions and promote peace. Merciful God, we lift up all who suffer. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to those who are sick, grieving, or in pain. Give us compassionate hearts to accompany those who are hurting and courage to work for justice and mercy. Merciful God, bind us together as a community of forgiveness and love. Supply us with humility to seek forgiveness when we have wronged one another and generosity to extend mercy when we have been wronged. 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) Deacon Dorothy "Dot" Jeffcoat, Alicia Javis, *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...

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. **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.

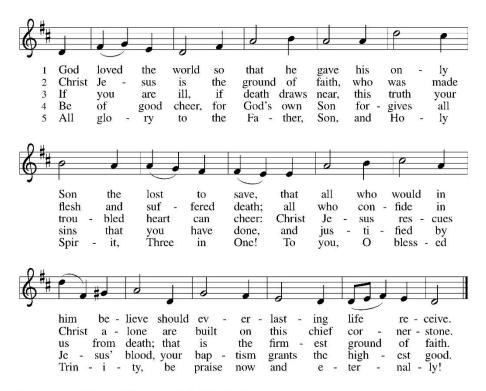
The OFFERING & OFFERTORY

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

Offertory Anthem

Choir ELW#323 (Red book)

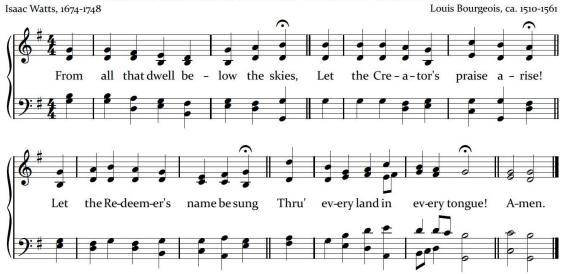
God Loved the World



Text: Gesangbuch, Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846–1923, alt. Music: ROCKINGHAM OLD, Edward Miller, 1731–1807, adapt.

Doxology





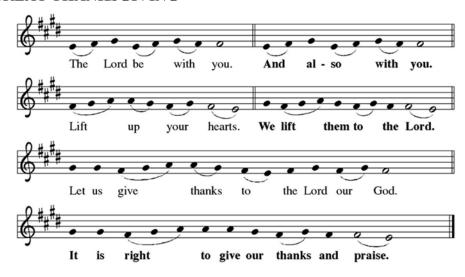
OFFERING PRAYER

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.

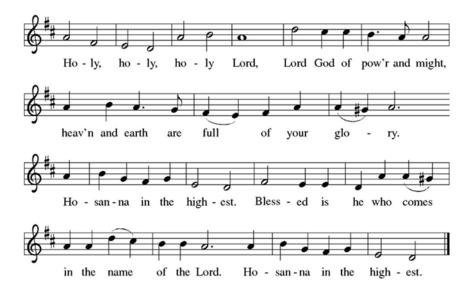
GREAT THANKSGIVING



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.

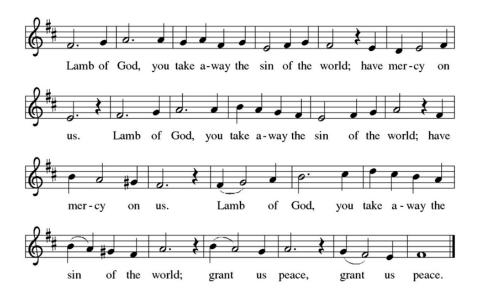
Amen.

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#631 (Red book)

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788 Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

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.

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

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.

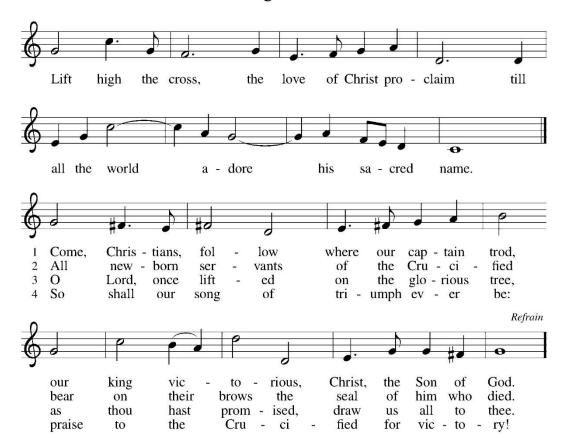
Amen.

The God of all grace

→ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Lift High the Cross



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.

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DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Share the good news. Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Announcements

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 <u>www.reformationcae.org</u> 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: @reformationlutherancola

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!