

Lutheran Church of the REFORMATION

First Sunday of Advent

Service of Holy Communion

November 30th, 2025 11 a.m.



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A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

Embraced by God's love, Lutheran Church of the Reformation gathers, welcomes, and nurtures a spiritual community to love and serve the world in Christ's name.

Welcome to Lutheran Church of the Reformation! For 154 years, Reformation has enjoyed a unique location near the nation's Capitol. We celebrate God's presence in everyone, including the great variety of members and friends who call Reformation their church home.

Everyone matters to God. You matter to us. Reformation has long been involved in social justice and helping organizations throughout the D.C. area, including Samaritan Ministry. We have helped Good Neighbors of Capitol Hill to equip 166 apartments for refugees over the past few years.

Reformation runs an "emergency" food pantry, in that we provide a bag of food (and in the colder months, hand-knitted hats and scarves) to DC residents that contains items sufficient to sustain a family of four for two days as they make more permanent connections toward food security. It is open on Mondays and Tuesdays (closed on government holidays) from 9AM-5PM; please bring a government issued ID.

Reformation welcomes and supports lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer+ Christians and their families in all aspects of the church's ministry. Since 1987, we have belonged to ReconcilingWorks, a national Lutheran LGBTQ+ ministry. We honor the Nacotchtank and Piscataway peoples upon whose land we live and worship.

If you are new to Reformation and would like more information about our church ministry, a baptism, a wedding, or another interest, please fill out an information card found in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate.

Children are most welcome in worship. The Blue Room, to the left as you entered, is equipped with sound for caregivers. A professionally staffed nursery and restrooms with changing tables are on the lower level of the St. John's building. Sunday School will resume September 21st and is open to children 4-12 years old in our historic Children's Chapel on the 2nd floor. Children's Choir is from 9:45-10am; Bible Lessons from 10-10:45am. All children receive an age appropriate Bible to take home!

An all-gender/handicapped accessible restroom is on the sanctuary level, on the right front of the sanctuary near the elevator.

Reformation is in partnership with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (www.elca.org), one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States. It has 3.3 million members in more than 8,900 congregations across the 50 states and in the Caribbean region as well as 27 Lutheran Colleges and Universities, 7 Seminaries, 400 worldwide missionaries, hundreds of Lutheran camps and campus ministries, one of the largest non-profit social service networks in the U.S., and Lutheran World Relief.

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

Prelude La Nativité

by Jean Langlais (1907 - 1991)

Welcome

Consideration of and care for those in need (especially those "at our gate," visible to us, of whom we are aware) is an essential component of good stewardship. It is in the sharing of wealth that we avoid the snare of wealth. It is the one whom death could not hold—who comes to us risen from the dead—who can free us from the death grip of greed.

Gathering Hymn

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

ELW 254

Lighting of Advent Wreath

Blessed are you, God of Jacob, for you promise to transform weapons of war into implements of planting and harvest and to teach us your way of peace; you promise that our night of sin is far gone and that your day of salvation is dawning.

As we light the first Advent candle, wake us from our sleep, wrap us in your light, empower us to live honorably, and guide us along your path of peace.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.

The candle is lit as we sing the following hymn from the hymnal: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (ELW 257, verse 1).

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Prayer of Confession

Here we confess our individual and mutual sin before a gracious and forgiving God. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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.

Words of Assurance

We hear God's forgiveness pronounced over us.

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 ♣ 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.

Greeting

These words are a mutual greeting which brings us together into union with our heavenly God.

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.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Children's Message

Jesus welcomed and centered children in his ministry. All children 8 and under are invited to come forward for the children's message.

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God speaks to us in scriptures read, sung and preached.

First Reading Isaiah 2:1-5

A reading from Isaiah.

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"

¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ⁴ He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

Psalm Psalm 122

The psalm for the day is sung.

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." (Ps. 122:1)

Gospel Acclamation O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Refrain) ELW 257

Please rise in body and/or spirit, as we greet the living Word, Jesus Christ, with praise.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

¹ I was glad when they | said to me,

[&]quot;Let us go to the house | of the Lord."

² Now our | feet are standing within your gates, | O Jerusalem.

³ Jerusalem is built | as a city that is at unity | with itself;

⁴ to which the tribes go up, the tribes | of the Lord, the assembly of Israel, to praise the name | of the Lord.

⁵ For there are the | thrones of judgment, the thrones of the | house of David.

⁶ Pray for the peace | of Jerusalem:

[&]quot;May they pros- | per who love you.

⁷ Peace be with- | in your walls and quietness with- | in your towers.

⁸ For the sake of my kindred | and companions, I pray for | your prosperity.

⁹ Because of the house of the | Lord our God, I will seek to | do you good."

Gospel Matthew 24: 36-44

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

The Holy Gospel according to the 24th chapter of Matthew Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶ "About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore 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.**

Please be seated.

Sermon Pastor Kevin

Silence for Reflection

We listen and meditate on the Word of God. We hold silence for the Spirit to speak.

Following the sermon, please stand as you are able to proclaim the Word of God together by singing the Hymn of the Day.

Hymn of the Day

Blessed be the God of Israel

ELW 250

Apostles' Creed

The text of the Apostles' Creed was developed in southern Gaul around the 5th century from a lineage of professions of faith dating back to the 1st century A.D. It has been confessed by the Universal Church for centuries.

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 universal church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

An assisting minister invites the congregation into prayer for the church, the world, and all those according to their needs.

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

God of the people, we come seeking wisdom and instruction. Uphold and strengthen lay leaders, teachers, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Teach us your ways and lead us in your paths. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God of the earth, we seek your goodness in the grandeur of creation. Empower us to care for forests and oceans, as we see you in the world around us. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God of the nations, grant wisdom to leaders, judges, and mediators. Cast out words of hate and transform them into words for building up community. Remake implements of war to sow peace. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God of healing, bring comfort and strength. We pray for our kindred and companions who are ill or despairing (especially . . . and those affected by HIV and AIDS as we remember World AIDS Day). Surround all with care and consolation. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God of new possibilities, when addiction wounds, jealousy tears down, and relationships fray, show us how to journey with one another. Nurture therapists, counselors, and sponsors in their care for others. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Merciful God, we pray for all who experience exclusion due to sexual orientation, gender identity, age, ability, race, ethnicity, or any other distinction people would make. Enable us to confront the intersection of oppression in our society, work for inclusion, and make all your lambs welcome in your church universal. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all time, build up our lives that we would reflect your grace. At the last, bring us with all the saints (especially) to your holy city where peace and goodness make a home. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

Amen.

Sharing of Peace

The minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The Peace of Christ is with you always. And also with you.

Please share a sign of Christ's peace with one another by saying "Peace be with you."

Ministry Announcements & Minute for Mission

More information and announcements can be found starting on page 17.

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God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Musical Offering

We reflect on the gifts we have, and the gifts we can offer to the Lord: our selves, our time, and our possessions. If you would like to make a monetary offering to the work and ministry of Reformation, please place it in the offering plate as it comes by, or, to do so by phone/online, turn to page 15. All gifts are beautiful to God!

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

by Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins
Who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be
sing Holy, Holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God
Who was, and is, and is to come, Sing Holy, Holy Lord
Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell within
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below
For Christ is coming, is coming soon, for Christ is coming soon
E'en so Lord Jesus, quickly come and night shall be no more
They need no light nor lamp nor sun for Christ will be their All!

Doxology ELW 884

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

This portion of the liturgy comes to us, modified yet recognizable, from the 3rd century.

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

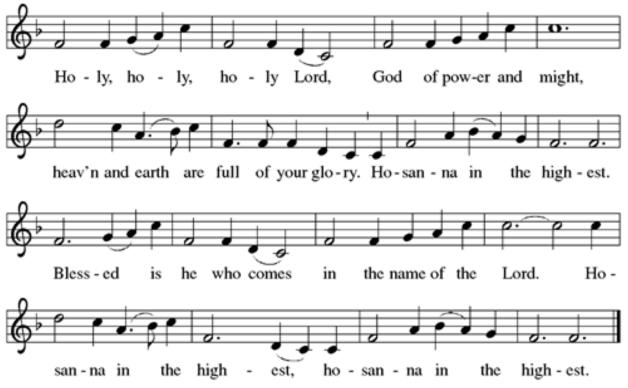
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; 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 the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

All people join the angels' song.



Words of Institution

This is the portion of a Christian Communion service based on the words of Mark 14:22-24 and used as the grounds from Jesus Christ for the continued celebration of the Eucharist.

The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:1-4

We conclude the thanksgiving with the prayer Jesus taught us. You can say this or another translation you know by heart.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

Invitation to Communion

We trust that God who raised Jesus from the dead to be alive with us now also joins us together in this moment of Holy Communion. Whether we are in the sanctuary or in our homes, the Holy Spirit comes and brings Christ's presence in, with, and under the bread and wine/juice when we share this meal together. You are joined to the body of Christ—the church—through this holy meal.

Lamb of God



Communion Hymns

Savior of the Nations, Come	ELW 263
The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came	ELW 265
The King Shall Come	ELW 260

Prayer after Communion

Please rise in body and/or spirit.

Let us pray.

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Charge to the People and Blessing

Sending Hymn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

ELW 631

Sending Forth

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Fantasia and Fugue in B flat

by Alexandre P. F. Boëly (1785 - 1858)

THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE!

Please join us for coffee and refreshments downstairs in the Parish Hall immediately following service.

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Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurnace written by Henrietta Stith Andrews, in From Despair to Rejoicing: Service Prayers for the 17th Sunday after Pentecost. Posted on the Worship Ways website. http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/. Words of Assurance also written by Karin Ellis.

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Your Offering Empowers Our Ministry

Thank you! Supported by your time, your talents, and your financial support, Lutheran Church of the Reformation continues its mission to gather, welcome and nurture a spiritual community to love and serve the world in Christ's name.

Regular donations can be set up at reformationdc.org/give or by reaching out to Julie Miller, our Director of Facilities and Operations, at 202-543-4200 or operations@ReformationDC.org.

Give today, simply and quickly:

Credit/Debit/Digital Wallet



ACH/Recurring



This Week at Reformation:

Today, Nov. 30	8:30 am 9:45 am 11 am	Worship (in-person) Sunday School & Confirmation Worship (in-person and online) Hanging of the Greens Fellowship (after 11am worship)
Wednesday	11 am 6:30-8 pm	Staff Meeting Wednesday Night Bible Study
Thursday	6 pm 7:30 pm	Community Soup & Support Supper Choir Rehearsal (all are welcome! Talk to Paul for more info)
Sunday, Dec. 7	8:30 am 9:45 am 11 am	Worship (in-person) Sunday School & Confirmation Worship (in-person)

WE GIVE THANKS ...

Prayer List:

For those who celebrate birthdays this week: Kate Ignaffo Heise (11/30), Aimee Occhetti (12/1), Pilar Sorenson (12/1), Timothy McEniry-Roschke (12/2), Emma Harrington (12/4), Emily Sollie (12/4).

For those who celebrate anniversaries this week: N/A

WE PRAY FOR ...

The people of Sudan, Congo, Haiti, Palestine, Israel, Ukraine, Afghanistan, Myanmar, and Ethiopia.

The families, friends, and communities affected by gun violence.

Elder and homebound congregation members.

The families, friends, and communities affected by natural disaster.

Disability justice.

Those experiencing anxiety, loneliness, and distance from family and friends.

Those who have lost loved ones.

The families, friends, and communities of various immigration statuses.

The Anacostia River.

Valerie Ashley, as she navigates health challenges.

Liz Tuckermanty, as she navigates health challenges.

Clinton "Rusty" Lilyquist

For all going off to college, that they feel God's peace and presence amidst transition.

For our congregational and family members in military and foreign service:

Drew Shealy, Jon Jones, Kim Loewecke, Matt Oskam, Melinda Manning, and family members of those in service here and around the world.

From our hearts for: Angela Braxton, Carolyn Walker, Emanuele and Emmajean Crupi, Gloria Wolf, Helen Stauderman, Madge Selinsky, Ron Rhine, and Thomas Winter

Please email your prayer requests to vandiver@reformationdc.org

REFORMATION HAPPENINGS

Have an announcement for the Weekly Word? Please submit it by Tuesday at midnight to vandiver@reformationdc.org.



Food Pantry Funding Update: As of August 26th, we have distributed 408 bags of food so far this year. These bags of food provided enough food to feed 832 from 298 households. This is good news, indeed! However, the Food Pantry funding (mostly exclusive to the congregation), has been reduced over time and is estimated to run out of funds by mid-2026 at the current distribution rate. Please read the

update by following the QR code for more details and consider making a one-time or recurring donation to provide food for our neighbors.

Nourishing Our Neighbors Update: Thank you to those who have committed to supporting the Nourishing our Neighbors ministry. We are grateful for you and encouraged by your generosity! The outpouring of support has been amazing! We have begun reaching out to the 20 families (maybe more?) we will shop for and deliver Thanksgiving groceries to this year. We look forward to building these relationships and truly, nourishing our neighbors. If you would still like to be involved, either by making a donation, sposoring a family, or volunteering in other ways, please let either Stacey Helberg (schelberg381@gmail.com) or Jackie Maddox (jmaddox2380@verizon.net) know.

Save the Date. Join our very own Julie Miller and her husband, Andy, as they give a concert of Advent and Christmas music on December 13th at 6:30pm at Reformation! Most songs can be found on their albums released in 2023, so you can get a sneak peek of the possible set list ("Advent Darkness" and "Christmas Vespers" under the band name "Julie & Andy" on Spotify, YouTube, etc).

Piece of Cake - December 7th and December 14th

Giving to Samaritan Ministry this advent is a "piece of cake" - literally! In exchange for your donation of \$25, you will receive a piece of cake from one of Reformation's star bakers. Cake slices will be available for purchase in the parish hall after the 11 am service. The proceeds will be used to purchase Safeway gift cards for distribution to Samaritan Ministry recipients.



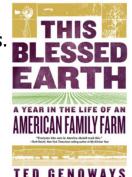
Seeking: Confirmation Mentors: We are seeking volunteers to serve as Confirmation mentors. These mentors will be invited to spend time with their assigned Confirmand during their Affirmation of Baptism journeys. The commitment is to meet together once every other month, in person, or on zoom, for 1 hour. Preference will also be given to members over 60 years of age. All mentors will be required to submit to background checks.

Altar Guild Opportunities. Are you looking for a way to become more involved with worship at Reformation? The Altar Guild needs you, especially at the 8:30 AM service. Guild members prepare the sacrament of communion every week for both services, and clean up. Your commitment would be one Sunday per month (or less if enough people can help). If you are interested or would like additional information, please reach out to Sarah Stauderman (sarah.stauderman@gmail.com).

Join our Signal chat for a quick-response hub to support Reformation's mobilizing efforts. This is a space to share information and ways to take action together. This private chat is for our Reformation community– all members must join through an admin in an effort to protect the safety and focus of the group. Join the signal chat by scanning this QR code or via the link in the

Weekly Word. Ask Pr. Kevin if you need support getting Signal on your smart phone!

The Reformation Book Club November selection is *This Blessed* Earth: A Year in the Life of an American Family Farm, by Ted Genoways. We will meet Monday, November 17, 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room for a hybrid in-person and virtual discussion. Contact Ivy Finkenstadt for the Zoom link.



Community Soup & Support Suppers. In these politically, professionally, and/or emotionally trying times, we will be gathering weekly for a meal and fellowship on Thursday evenings at 6pm. We hope that these gatherings can be ongoing for the sake of sharing, nourishment, and mutual support. If you're able to bring something in a potluck style (particularly if you're a non-federal or adjacent ally), please do so. If you're not able to bring anything, that's okay too. Come out to support and be supported.

<u>Recruiting all instrumentalists and singers!</u> If you or someone you know plays an instrument, guitar, drums, winds, brass, harmonica, etc. or likes to sing, please let us know. We'd love to include your musical talents in our music ministry. Please contact Paul Leavitt: pdleavitt0918@gmail.com.

Thanks be to God for today's Worship Leaders...

Presiding Minister: Pastor Kevin Vandiver

Assisting Minister: Karen Cowden

Altar Care: Sarah Stauderman

Tellers: Andy Weaver, Suzanne Hazard

Reader: Dina Finkel

Cantors: Gabbi Levy, Alexa Newlin, Jacob Mitchell, JP Barringer

Communion Assistant: Philip Moeller

Greeter/Usher: Matt Cook, Evan Schrage

Stream Team: Chan Voss, Jane Tobler **Fellowship Host:** Meyer Sander Family

Acolyte: Hannah Fuehrmeyer

Cruficer:

Minute for Mission:

If you are in need of pastoral care, please call the church office at 202-543-4200, ext. 103. You may also email Pastor Kevin at vandiver@reformationdc.org.

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