

CHRISTMAS EVE AND DAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

All services include Carols, Candlelight, & Communion

4:00 p.m. - a special service designed especially for children who will participate in "Las Posadas", the journey of Mary and Joseph as they seek room for the Christ-child.

6:00 p.m. - a service featuring familiar carols sung in an upbeat contemporary rock style.

8:00 p.m. - a service featuring traditional carols sung in a traditional style.

10:00 p.m. - a quiet, reflective service featuring traditional carols sung in a traditional style.



CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

Sunday, December 25, at 10:00 a.m. - Special Service of Carols and Communion, followed by a birthday party for Jesus.



THE NAME OF JESUS

Sunday, January 1, at 10:00 a.m. - Special Service of Carols and Communion to welcome the new year.



ADVENT GOSPEL PROCESSION BY CHILDREN

There will be a special opportunity for children to be involved in worship during the season of Advent (which begins on November 27). Children will be invited to help the preaching pastor bring the Bible forward from a table in the back of the sanctuary and stand around the pastor for the reading of the gospel. Pastor and children will then continue with the Sermon on the Steps as usual in the service.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SPECIAL EVENTS

St. Nicholas Celebration Sunday, December 4

Will be held during both morning worships. Bishop Nicholas will visit us and dedicate the gifts we bring to support local community organizations.

Chester Children's Chorus Concerts Friday, Dec. 9 & Saturday, Dec. 10

7:30 pm

at Lang Concert Hall, Swarthmore College. Reformation supports the Chorus and will be providing dinner for the children at their dress rehearsal.

Christmas Caroling Sunday, December 18

We will meet at the church at 12:15 p.m. for a light lunch and break into groups. This is a great opportunity to visit our homebound members and share holiday joy with them.

Hanging of the Greens Sunday, December 18,

Immediately following the 11:00 worship. Everyone is invited to help us decorate the tree, hang wreaths and pine roping in preparation for our Christmas worships.

C H U R C H L I F E

HOLIDAY HAYRIDE AT ARASAPHA SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 6:00 PM

Families are invited to join us on Sunday, December 11, for the Arasapha Holiday Hayride. We will gather at the church at 6:00 p.m. A sign up email will be sent out. See Pr. Alina with any questions.

CONSIDER ELCA GOOD GIFTS OF HOPE AND LOVE

As you plan for the coming season of gift-giving, consider a gift of hope and love that can help make a difference in the world with ELCA GOOD GIFTS.

The ELCA Good Gifts Catalog has more than 40 options, with prices ranging from \$10 (for 10 chicks or to stock a backpack with food) to \$1,000 (for an ox and plow) with many other possibilities in between, from health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy, seminar education to evangelist training

It's easy to give an ELCA Good Gift.

Choose your gift by browsing the website at www.ELCA.org/goodgifts or by looking through the print catalog (copies available at the church).

Get a card – if your gift is in honor of a friend or loved one, it's easy to tell them about it. A selection of printable cards and eCards are also available to print at www.ELCA.org/goodgifts. If you prefer, there will be “generic” cards available at the church for you to use to announce your gift.

While gifts to ELCA.org/goodgifts grow the church, fight hunger, and transform lives, there are other ways to give similar gifts. You may want to visit the website of Lutheran World Relief at www.lwrgifts.org for additional “good gift” options.

Another option is to choose another benevolent cause about which you are passionate and make a contribution to that organization in honor of someone. The cards available at the church can also be used to announce such gifts.

ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE NOW

Annual Reports from Ministry Leaders are due in the church office now. Please send your report electronically (preferably in Word) to rlc@relcmedia.org. Thank you!

SAVE THE DATE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2016,

Luncheon and meeting immediately following late service.



If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. – 1 Corinthians 12:26

The Rev. Daniel Shook, entered eternal life on November 5. A memorial service was held at Reformation on November 12.

Know Your Church Council

President: Dick Hughey Secretary: Andrew Marcus
V. President: Kate Fernandez Treasurer: Tom Conroy
Members:

Alexis Bingeman, Ron Bingeman, Keith Bocian, Emily Black, John Chesters, Karen Chorney, Kate Fernandez, Marian Filtz, Matt Gane, Kristin Gress, Dick Hughey, Andrew Marcus, Uli Neubert, Walt Woerheide, Pastor Alina Gayeuski, Pastor Wayne Matthias-Long

Newsletter Submission

Articles for the *Reformation Times* should be emailed to Sandy Niss at reformationnews@gmail.com by the second Friday of each month.

ECO TIP

Whenever possible, use reusable cloth and heavy duty non-plastic bags. Cut down on plastic bottles and buy products in paper and wax cartons. Enough plastic is thrown out each year to circle the earth four times, and 93% of Americans 6 and older test positive for BPA in their blood!

YOUTH NEWS

YOUTH GROUP 2017 SCHEDULE

Mark your calendars for our upcoming Youth Group events in 2017!

January 8 ROCK On
March 4-6 Harvey Cedars

SUMMER 2017 – YOUTH WORKS MISSION TRIP

In summer of 2017, our youth mission trip will be working locally! Our service week, scheduled for July 23-28, will be in Philadelphia. We will be working with food insecurity in the city – learning about programs and serving those who are most affected. All youth who have completed grades 8-12 are invited to join us. More information will be available at the ASP Forum and by contacting Pastor Alina. Registration commitments will be due by February 1, 2017.

HARVEY CEDARS

The Harvey Cedars retreat, for all youth in grades 6-12, will be held **March 3-5**. Registration materials and payment will be due by Sunday, January 15. More information will be communicated with parents via e-mail. Please speak with Pastor Alina if you have any questions.

ROCK On

Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to our January Youth Group gathering! Emily Black will be hosting our first ROCK On session on Sunday, January 8, at 4:00 pm. This will be an opportunity for youth to engage in conversations and activities about faith and life. Snacks will be provided. A sign up email will be sent out. Please see Emily Black with any questions.

ADULT FORUM WITH

LUTHERAN CHARITIES SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 , 9:45 AM

Barbara Stechert, Manager of Donor Relations and Ministry Partnerships for Lutheran Charities and a Certified Church Consultant, will engage the adult forum participants in a Jeffersonian style conversation.

Thomas Jefferson liked to structure his dinners and his conversations by posing questions and allowing one person at a time to speak for no more than 2 minutes. This allowed participants to both listen and speak and for topics to be delved into deeply. Sunday's questions will center around your passions - why you support causes, who was your role model for generosity, what does your church do to encourage visitors and new members and similar questions.

The hour will go quickly and the sharing will help us all gain insight. Think about the first question Barbara will pose: "If you were given substantial funds to give to any organization, who would you give it to and why."

THANK YOU

The family of Bill Bianco wishes to thank the Eco Ministry, and others who were involved, for dedicating the birdbath in the Butterfly Garden to Bill. We truly appreciate the lovely gesture and will always be grateful for your thoughtfulness and kindness.

~ Sue

C H U R C H L I F E

PARISH NURSE



Pat Woerheide

The holidays are here and spirits are high, but along with it we all experience increased stress. Most of us handle this season and its stress well. But what if you have lost a loved one? It could be recent or even years ago that the loss happened. The holiday season can feel terrible for a bereaved individual. Dr. Terri Erbacher PHD , wrote an article about this problem and has some ideas that might help. The article is “Grief and Loss Through the Holidays.” It was recently published in, Chester County Medicine, Fall, 2016.

Dr. Erbacher related these as normal signs of grief:

- You may feel tired or have trouble sleeping.
- You may have trouble concentrating and frequently think about your loss.
- Thoughts of blame may enter your mind. This may mean blaming yourself or blaming your loved one for not getting better health care, or blaming Doctors because they didn’ t save your loved one!
- Activities you used to like to do just don’ t seem like being worth the effort.
- You may question how God let this happen.
- You feel irritable and more sensitive to sad events or even to emotional movies.

Loneliness can occur even when you are with celebrating friends. Dr. Erbacher states, “The trajectory for grief is different for each of us, so we cannot compare our experiences to that of another.” She stresses us giving ourselves permission to grieve. Here is what she suggests to promote healing during the holidays:

*Accept sad feelings but be open to new joys. Let supportive individuals know how you are feeling, simple communication can bring relief and good feelings. Honor your needs even if you must say no.

- Develop a ritual to remember your loved one, like lighting a candle or reading a poem to honor their memory.
- Mention your loved one and share memories at family celebrations. Don’t make your memory a silent elephant in the room.
- Practice mindfulness when you eat special foods and smell seasonal fragrances. Try to really experience happy feelings with others. Try new traditions.



OWLS

OUTSTANDING, WISER, LUTHERANS

The OWLs were extra busy in November. Not only did they enjoy a great band (the Legends, suggested by Ken Delmar, who plays trumpet with them.) but they also enjoyed a delicious *cooked* meal, prepared by members. Thank you to Joe Mirarchi and John Kulp for setting up all those extra tables and chairs!

The OWLs also traveled by **school bus** to Penncrest the very same week for yet another yummy lunch and wonderful entertainment by talented Penncrest students!

In December, the OWLs will sit back and relax with a light lunch and listen to Christmas music. As they have done for the past number of years, they are invited to bring small, inexpensive gifts for the residents of Fair Acres. The gifts (dollar store trinkets) will be taken to Fair Acres following the OWLs meeting and donated as bingo prizes in honor of our own Fair Acres resident, **Jeanette Brown.**

Meetings are held in Creighton Hall 12:30 to 2:30 and include devotions and a short business meeting. All are welcome!

Sometimes the bereaved need additional support in the holidays. If you know someone grieving, Dr Erbacher relates that the single most helpful thing you can do is just to be there and spend extra time together, even if it is simply enjoying a cup of coffee together. Ask them how they are doing. When someone mentions they feel like a burden or cannot get out of bed or cant stop crying throughout the day, or even talks about a wish to die or relates a suicide plan, don’ t leave them. Call 911 or the 24 hour National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255). Don’t worry about making mistakes, offer help!

SAVE THE DATE:

A CPR review will be held on January 8th, 2017. Anyone certified in CPR or interested in CPR is welcome. It will be in the church after the second service. It will last approximately one hour.

FINANCIAL MINISTRY CORNER

Online Giving...As Easy As One, Two, Three

Almost every bank today offers its customers the ability to view their current account balances, account statements, transfer funds and pay bills online over the internet. If you are like me, you may already be using your bank's online banking interface for budgeting and paying monthly bills. But did you know that you can also use that same functionality to send your weekly, monthly, quarterly or annual offering payments to Reformation?

One...To get started (if you don't already have online access to your checking account) you must ask your bank to create an online account for you, which is easily done by visiting your local branch. You will need to have a unique user name (sometimes you can use your everyday email address) and a password. Remember to use a combination of numbers, upper-case and lower-case letters and special characters in your password to strengthen its effectiveness. You may also have to pick and answer some basic security questions (i.e., in what town were you born?), which you will be prompted to answer if you ever forget your password and need to reset it.

Two...Log-in to your bank's online banking interface on the internet using your new and unique username and strong password. Your bank can supply you with the web address (i.e., the URL) for the log-in page for the online banking interface or you can use Google and search for it.

Three...Visit the online bill paying window or tab in your bank's online banking portal. The first time that you do this, you will probably be prompted to enter some basic information about Reformation, including the church's address (102 W. Rose Tree Road, Media, Pennsylvania 19063) and your particular offering envelope number (for the "account number" if requested by the bank). Enter the specific dollar amount that you want to send and choose how frequently you want that amount to be sent to Reformation, and click "apply." That's it. As easy as 1-2-3!

Here is a partial list of the advantages of using online banking for your offering pledge payments to Reformation:

- You'll never have to write another check to make your offering to Reformation.
- You control when and how frequently payments are sent to Reformation. If you need to delay a payment because cash is tight, no problem...just log-in and adjust when the funds are sent from your account.
- "Set it and forget it." No need to remember to make your payment, your bank will handle it all for you so that payments will be sent on the dates and in the amounts that you input when you set up the automatic payment...even when you are out of town or cannot get to church because of bad weather!
- No need to specify how much of your payment is for the General Fund, Building Fund and Alina Appeal, as the church treasurer will automatically allocate your payment according to the allocation that you indicated on your pledge card for the year.
- You can adjust your payment anytime and anywhere from any computer with an internet connection.
- It's as easy as 1-2-3 to set up...

Please feel free to contact any member of the Finance Ministry if you have any questions or would like some assistance setting up online bill paying for your Reformation offering payments.



“We should fear and love God that we may ... help [our neighbor] to improve and protect his property and business.” – Martin Luther’s explanation to the 7th Commandment

In Armenia, a man named Artik was in need of money to purchase new bee hives and bee families for the farm he had started 11 years ago. These new bees would enable him to gather and sell more honey enabling him to provide for his family and support his community. However, in order to afford this he needed a loan.

Since August of 2014, Reformation’s Eco Ministry has been partnering with an organization named Kiva. Kiva is a non-profit organization providing loans through personal lenders to people in 82 countries worldwide. Our Eco Ministry is committed to using the money earned from our paper recycling in service to our neighbors and became a lender with Kiva.

So far our loans have assisted families in Kenya, Cambodia, Mexico, and now Armenia assisting in the financing of projects of home energy, appliances, cattle, and livestock. When a loan is repaid we are able to loan those funds again. What started as two loans has now become four!

In this season of giving, consider what gifts you can give to the world. How are we called to serve our neighbors across the globe as well as down the street? Our Eco Ministry invites you to consider some new and exciting ways to live out this part of our mission.

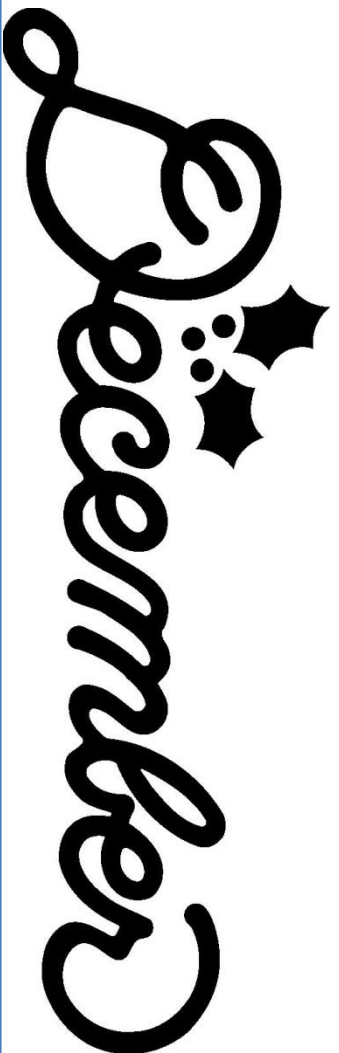
This Christmas season I will be giving thanks for Reformation’s part in helping Artik and all who have been assisted through these loans and all the ways we serve our neighbors together!

You can learn more about the work Kiva is doing throughout the world at their website: kiva.org.

Blessings to you and your family during this joyful time!

Pastor Alina Gayeuski

Called by Christ, we INVITE all people, SERVE our neighbors, BUILD a living Faith



**Reformation Evangelical
Lutheran Church**
102 West Rose Tree Road, Media, PA 19063
Phone: 610-891-0600 Fax: 610-566-7036
www.relcmmedia.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 Second Sunday of Advent St. Nicholas Sunday 8:30 am Worship 9:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Bible Study 9:45 am Women's Connection 11:00 am Worship 7:00 pm Dance Lessons 8:00 pm Men's AA	5 1:30 pm FA Group 7:00 pm Alanon 7:15 pm Boy Scouts 8:00 pm Alanon/ Alateen	6 12:00 pm Staff Meeting 1:00 pm Mah Jongg 6:30 pm Children's Choir 6:30 pm Zumba Class 8:00 pm Women's AA	7 7:00 pm Marketing & Growth 7:00 pm Souls 7:15 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	1 6:30 pm Zumba Class 7:30 pm Finance Ministry 8 6:30 pm Zumba Class 6:30 pm Library Committee	2 6:00 pm Cub Scout Holiday Party	3 6:30 pm AA 10 8:30 am Men's Breakfast 6:30 pm AA
11 Third Sunday of Advent 8:30 am Worship 9:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Bible Study 9:45 am Women's Connection 11:00 am Worship 1:30 pm Mah Jongg 6:00 pm Holiday Hayride at Arasapha 7:00 pm Dance Lessons 8:00 pm Men's AA	12 12:30 pm OWLS 1:30 pm FA Group 7:00 pm Alanon 7:15 pm Boy Scouts 8:00 pm Alanon/ Alateen	13 10:30 am Staff Meeting 1:00 pm Mah Jongg 6:30 pm Children's Choir 6:30 pm Zumba Class 7:00 pm Council Meeting 8:00 pm Women's AA	14 7:00 pm Souls 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	15 6:30 pm Zumba Class 7:00 pm Eco-Ministry	16	17 6:30 pm AA
18 Fourth Sunday of Advent Blessing of the Greens 8:30 am Worship 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Hanging of the Greens 12:00 pm Christmas Caroling 7:00 pm Dance Lessons 8:00 pm Men's AA	19 1:30 pm FA Group 7:00 pm Alanon 7:15 pm Boy Scouts 8:00 pm Alanon/ Alateen	20 12:00 pm Staff Meeting 1:00 pm Mah Jongg 6:30 pm Children's Choir 6:30 pm Zumba Class 8:00 pm Women's AA	21 7:00 pm Souls 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	22 6:30 pm Zumba Class	23	24 Christmas Eve 4:00 pm Worship 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm AA 8:00 pm Worship 10:00 pm Worship
25 Christmas Day 10:00 am Worship 8:00 pm Men's AA	26 1:30 pm FA Group 7:00 pm Alanon 7:15 pm Boy Scouts 8:00 pm Alanon/ Alateen	27 12:00 pm Staff Meeting 1:00 pm Mah Jongg 6:30 pm Children's Choir 6:30 pm Zumba Class 8:00 pm Women's AA	28 7:00 pm Souls 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	29 6:30 pm Zumba Class	30	31 6:30 pm AA



REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH
102 WEST ROSE TREE ROAD
MEDIA, PA, 19063

Non-Profit
Organization
**U.S. POSTAGE
PAID**
MEDIA, PA 19063
Permit No. 315

Return Service Requested

Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m.
Summer Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Pastors

The Rev. Wayne A. Matthias-Long
The Rev. Alina S. Gayeuski

Phone: 610-891-0600
FAX: 610-566-7036
www.relcmedia.org

REFORMATION TIMES

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DECEMBER 2016

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE
8:30 & 11:00 AM HOLY COMMUNION
9:45 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES

Sunday, December 4

St. Nicholas Celebration
Adult Forum with Lutheran Charities

Sunday, December 18

Blessing and Hanging of the Greens
Christmas Caroling at 12:15 pm

Saturday, December 24- Christmas Eve

All services include Carols, Candlelight, and Communion:

4:00 p.m. – a unique service especially for children

6:00 p.m. – familiar carols in an upbeat contemporary style

8:00 p.m. – traditional carols in traditional style

10:00 p.m. – quieter service with traditional carols in traditional style

Sunday, December 25 – Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. – Special service of Carols and Communion followed by Birthday Party for Jesus

Sunday, January 1 – The Name of Jesus

10:00 a.m. – Special service of Carols and Communion to welcome the new year



Poinsettia plants may be ordered by filling out this form and placing it on the offering plate or in the church office. The plants cost **\$6.50** each. Checks should be made out to *Reformation Lutheran Church* and attached to your order.

The names of those persons ordering plants will be printed in the Christmas Eve worship folders. Plants may be taken home after the 10 p.m. worship on Christmas Eve, after worship Christmas morning or during the week following Christmas.

I/we will pick up my/our plant(s)
Please donate my/our plants

I/we would like to reserve: _____red poinsettias @ \$6.50

_____white poinsettias @ \$6.50

*Check one box below and please **PRINT** clearly*

- In memory of _____
- In honor of _____
- In memory of loved ones
- To the glory of God

Name as it should appear in the bulletin (please PRINT clearly)

Envelope Number: _____

Instead of purchasing plants, I/we would like to donate toward the trees, wreaths, etc. \$ _____.

Deadline for ordering is Sunday, December 11