
REFORMATION TIMES

DECEMBER 2018

Christmas Eve & Day Schedule

Christmas Eve Worship

All worships include Carols, Candlelight and Communion.

2 pm – a service featuring traditional carols sung in a traditional style

4 pm – 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 pm – a service featuring familiar carols sung in an upbeat contemporary rock style.

8 pm – a service featuring traditional carols sung in a traditional style

Christmas Day Worship

10 am – a service of Carols and Communion followed by a birthday party for Jesus.

Join the Holiday Choir

If you would like to sing during Advent or on Christmas Eve, the Chancel Choir would love to have you join us! Rehearsals will be held Wednesdays, November 28 and December 5 at 7:30, and Saturdays, December 15 and 22 at 10:00 am. You may also join us at 8:00 am on Sunday mornings for rehearsal before 8:30 service. For more information, contact Valerie Rozek at varozek@gmail.com or 440.478.8163.

St. Nicholas Celebration

Bishop Nicholas will visit us and dedicate the gifts we bring to support local community organizations during both worships on **Sunday, December 9**. Be sure to see the display in the hallway to select gift tags. Bring unwrapped gifts to worship with you on December 9.

St. Nick Shopping Made Easy!

Planning to shop for gifts for our St. Nicholas Celebration on Amazon?

Use smile.amazon.com and specify



Reformation as the charity to benefit from your shopping. You will also be able to search for the Reformation Wish List to see all the items requested by the agencies we support. You are also welcome to ship your donations directly to Reformation. Please address them to St. Nick c/o Reformation, 102 West Rose Tree Road, Media, PA 19063. Contact the church office if you have any questions.

Bring Joy to our Homebound



Join members in spreading Christmas cheer to our homebound on Sunday, December 16. Come to

Creighton Hall after the 11:00 worship for a light lunch and then we will carpool to sing Christmas Carols until about 3 pm. You will lift your own spirits and the spirits of the homebound. All ages are welcome. Please sign up on the sheet on the counter in the gathering space.

Give a “Good Gift”



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, seminary education to evangelist training

It's easy to give an ELCA Good Gift.

1. Choose your gift by browsing the website at ELCA.org/goodgifts or by checking out the display in the lobby outside the sanctuary.
2. Make your donation to ELCA Good Gifts.
3. Get a card. You can pick up a card on the display table. 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 ELCA.org/goodgifts.

(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 lwrgifts.org for additional “good gift” options.)

Concert to Benefit Kencrest

Hosted by Christ's Lutheran Church, Oreland (700 Pennsylvania Avenue, Oreland, PA 19075) the Bloom Consort will perform Renaissance Christmas Carols and Sacred Music in a concert open to the community, with a reception to follow, on **December 2 at 3:00 pm**. A free-will offering will be collected to benefit KenCrest's Rod Hibbard Fund which provides emergency assistance to staff members.

Share Christmas @ Home

Christmas @ Home packets are available! You can pick up a packet on the counter in the lobby outside of the sanctuary. These simple activities can be done in your home on Christmas Day and are great for all ages! Please see Pastor Alina or Deacon Beth for more information or if you have any questions.

Hanging of the Greens

Everyone is invited to help us decorate the tree and hang wreaths and pine roping

Sunday, December 23, immediately following the 11:00 worship. Join



us also for the Unhanging of the Greens on Sunday, January 6, after the 11:00 worship.

Addresses Needed

Have a student in college? Please send the church office (rlc@relcmedia.org) your student's address at school by **January 15**. Students can expect a surprise in the mail next semester!

REFORMATION TIMES

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Reformation Lutheran Church

Deadline: Noon the 15th of every month
Materials to: newsletter@relcmedia.org

Congregation Council and Officers

Marian Filtz, *President*, Kristin Gress, *Vice President*, Dick Hughey, *Secretary*, Tom Conroy, *Treasurer*, Emily Black, Brett Conley, Talitha D'Italia, Marilyn Gilroy, Skip Hoffman, Uli Neubert, Layla Phillips, Mike Polito, Walt Woerheide, Pastor Alina Gayeuski, Pastor Wayne Matthias-Long



If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

1 Corinthians 12:26

Ryleigh Audrey Fuller, daughter of Morgan and Fran Fuller, was born on October 29.

Colton Lee Lesser, son of Melissa and Doug Lesser, was baptized at Reformation on November 11.

Evie Anne Mathis, daughter of Jenna and Ryan Mathis, was baptized at Reformation on November 25.

Longing for the Light

December 2 is the First Sunday in Advent. Worship that day will include our “Longing for the Light of Healing and Hope” liturgy which includes a Prayer Litany and, optionally, Candle Lighting and Individual Prayer for Healing.

Harvey Cedars @ Tuscarora

The Harvey Cedars @ Tuscarora Retreat, for all youth in grades 6-12, will be held **April 5-7**. Registration materials and payment will be due by **Sunday, January 20**. More information will be communicated with parents via e-mail. Please speak with Pastor Alina if you have any questions.

Lunch Bunch is back!

Our first gathering will be **Wednesday, December 12**, at 12:30 pm at DiFabio's on Route 252 in Media, right around the corner from Reformation. There is space for 16. Please sign up on the clipboard in the lobby if you are interested. See Karen Chorney, Edna Bogert, or Linda Bucher with questions.

LUTHERAN SETTLEMENT HOUSE

Serve & Learn

On **Sunday, December 9**, as part of our St. Nicholas Celebration, Erica Zaveloff and Vashti Bledsoe from Lutheran Settlement House (LSH) will be with us. During the education hour, at 9:45 am, in Creighton Hall, there will be an opportunity to make blankets for the children served by LSH and to learn about the work LSH does. ALL are welcome!

Faithbuilders

December – Advent Conspiracy



Each week during Advent the Faith-Life Connections Faithbuilder will discuss the four tenets of the Advent Conspiracy: Worship Fully, Spend Less, Give More, Love All. Advent Conspiracy was founded on the radical idea

that we can celebrate Christmas humbly, beautifully, and generously. Join us at 9:45 am in Creighton Hall **December 2, 9, 16, & 23**. See Deacon Beth with any questions.

January – Before The Amen

A new four-week course based on New York Times bestselling author Max Lucado's book, “Before the Amen”, begins **January 6**. In this study, Max Lucado reveals how connecting with God each day can be as simple as five short sentences. See Deacon Beth with any questions.

Holiday Hayride at Arasapha

Families are invited to join us on **Sunday, December 2**, for the Arasapha Holiday Hayride. We will gather at the church at 6:00 pm and at Arasapha at 6:30. Use the online sign up. See Pastor Alina with any questions.

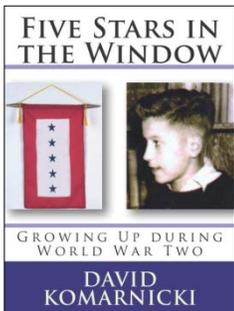


To all our friends at Reformation,

Thank you for all your cards, prayers, caring and comfort you have given to my family and I during this difficult time. The Spirit is very alive and well at Reformation. My family and I have been blessed to be members for 20 plus years.

Peace,
Bill Meehan

Guest Speaker at Men's B-fast



The Men's Breakfast group has invited guest speaker David Komarnicki, author of the book *Five Stars in the Window*, to our **Saturday, December 8**, Men's Breakfast. The book describes Mr. Komarnicki's

childhood growing up during World War II in the City of Chester, PA. Chester was the center of the industrial revolution in Delaware County during the 1900's and converted that industry to the war effort during the 1940's. Families displayed stars in their windows to show they have sons or fathers off serving their country. Our breakfast starts with Coffee and Fellowship at 8:30 am with breakfast served at 9:00. The presentation will begin at 9:30 am.

Blood Drive

Save the date -
January 20



Save the Date - VBS

Plan to join us! – **July 7-11**, 2019.

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 December 2). Children will be invited to help the preacher bring the Bible forward from a table in the back of the sanctuary and stand around the preacher for the reading of the gospel. Everyone will then continue with the Sermon on the Steps as usual in the service.

Learn About "Race and Faith"

Interfaith Philadelphia is offering a series of large, public conversations that model the skills needed to navigate complex topics within critical relationships.



Each conversation will feature a special moderator and featured guests engaging in provocative topics that are current, potentially divisive, and connected to the general theme of interfaith understanding.

The first session, "**Race and Faith**", will be held at WHYY (150 N. 6th Street, Philadelphia) on **Thursday, January 17**, and begin at 7:00 pm. A diverse panel of religious leaders, Bishop Patricia Davenport, Rabbi David Straus, and Imam Anwar Muhaimin, will discuss how race and racism informs their leadership and the communities they lead. Panelists will share personal stories engaging the powerful intersection of race and faith in their lives. Visit www.interfaithphiladelphia.org/live-events for more information and to register.

Library News



Make Christmas Feel Real -- Read about it

Did you know that our brains suspend disbelief to let us feel that what we read is real? We can feel the emotions involved

as if they are happening to us. There is certainly a downside to that, but it is a reminder that reading about Advent, Christmas and Epiphany can be a powerful way to celebrate Christ and deepen our faith. (And that's what the Bible is about, isn't it?)

The Reformation Library is well-stocked with books for the season – meditations, prayers and devotions; tellings of the Christmas story for all ages; hymns and carols and their stories; and novels that draw readers into the season. Below are a few. Stop by the library to pick one up or to find something that suits you.

God with us: rediscovering the meaning of Christmas by Scott Cairns. Essays and meditations by well-known writers on religion on Advent, Christmas and Epiphany.

Celebrate Jesus! Family devotions for Advent through Epiphany by Kimberly Ingalls Reese.

Diane Goode's American Christmas by Diane Goode. A collection of American poems, songs and stories from across our country.

The Legend of St. Nicholas by Demi. The story of the saint and how he became associated with Christmas.

Eco Tip

Ten surprising things that can be recycled will be reviewed one per month.

BATTERY

This month Batteries: Batteries are made of many hard metals which can pollute soil and water. To find a recycling center near you call 877-273-2925.

Good Neighbors Time Bank

The Good Neighbors Time Bank invites you to an introduction of time banking on

Saturday, December 8,
at 1:00 pm at

Reformation! This

nonprofit is a great way

to get involved with the community, meet new people, and volunteer your talents with people in need. At the introduction you will be able to learn what time banking is and how you can get involved while enjoying the company of new and old friends. Snacks will be provided, please come out for a fun time! For more information visit: goodneighborstb.timebanks.org



Bear Creek Winter Camp



CONNECT with God and
CONNECT with your friends!
We have a blast doing all of
the fun activities Camp has
to offer during winter, plus all

the other great activities you love about Bear Creek Camp. The weekend kicks off Friday night and runs until Sunday after lunch. Registration online at bearcreekcamp.org.

4th-8th Grade: January 11-13

8th-12th Grade: January 25-27

U.S. Wildfires Disaster Relief

Sunday, December 2, our “second offering” will be matched by the Holiday Offering Fund and designated for U.S. Wildfires Disaster relief. Members of our Global Mission ministry will pass our “globe offering plates” for your gift.

NURSE'S NOTE

HIV Awareness

World AIDS Day on December 1 has started a global initiative to raise awareness, fight prejudice, and improve education about HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. You probably have heard a lot about HIV and AIDS. Most people think these diseases are not their problem because only people engaged in high risk sexual activity or drug users are exposed. WRONG! Anyone, children, students, adults and seniors at any age can be infected with HIV.

People are infected with the HIV virus through unprotected sexual contact with infected blood, semen or vaginal fluids or by sharing needles or blood products with someone who carries the HIV virus. People can be carrying the HIV virus and not know it or think they have a cold or flu. The human body can carry the virus for up to ten years before serious disease is experienced. Initial symptoms of an HIV infection are a headache, muscle aches, swollen glands, sore throat, fever or chills with sweating, and sometimes a rash or mouth ulcers. Later stage symptoms include lack of energy, loss of appetite, chronic diarrhea and yeast infections and short-term memory loss with blotchy lesions on the skin in the mouth, eyelids, nose or genital area. If you've had hepatitis or tuberculosis you may carry HIV. If you had a blood transfusion from 1978-1985 or in a developing country you may carry HIV.

HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) is a virus that damages your body's immune system. An immune system fights infection and disease. This damage may lead to a serious chronic condition called AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome), where unusual cancers and severe infections occur and results in the breakdown of health maintenance in your body. With early and uninterrupted medication, a person who is infected by the virus will suppress HIV and make it harder to pass the virus. So, what can we do?

If you think you have been exposed to HIV, blood tests, mouth swabs or urine testing is available. If you are having unprotected sex or have had contact with shared needles at any age, get tested. Then use latex or polyurethane condoms and don't share needles. You can be tested at a doctor's office or lab or even at home. Home testing kits are available online, but make sure the test is approved and certified. ChesPenn Health Services in Upper Darby offers low or no cost testing. Planned Parenthood of Southeast Pennsylvania in Media, PA also offers low or no cost HIV tests. Get treatment if your test is positive. Use the CDC (Center for Disease Control) website or call 800-232-4636 for more help and information, or ask me or any staff person.

Talk about this disease. Everyone needs to know the facts, even children and grandparents!



Scholar Coming to Reformation

Save the date for our annual Scholar in Residence program! **March 9-10**, we will welcome Dr. Kristin Johnson Largen, professor of theology at United Lutheran Seminary. Dr. Largen's areas of study include systematic theology, focusing particularly on comparative theology with Buddhism and Hinduism, 21st century theology, specifically with feminist and liberation theologies. We look forward to welcoming Dr. Largen to Reformation as our 2019 Scholar in Residence. More information and registration to follow.

FROM THE DEACON

"Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low, the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain." Isaiah 40:4

Advent, what is that?

You are not alone if you have friends, co-workers, neighbors who ask that question. This church season, the first of the yearly calendar, is different.

With the world in a flurry of Christmas color and consumerism, Advent is truly counter-cultural. For Advent is a time when collectively, as the body of Christ, in worship and daily life we attempt to slow down. In a manner like Lent, we wait together. We keep watch together for an event that will change all of our lives.

The word "advent" comes from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "appearing" or "coming," referring to the appearing of a great king or even a god. In Christian usage, it refers to the appearing of Jesus Christ in two ways - His first appearing as the Child born and His second appearing in glory on the Last Day to judge the living and the dead. Thus, Advent is not only about getting ready for Christmas; it is also about getting ready for Jesus's final appearing in glory on the Last Day.

With the tone of Advent being joyful anticipation, we live our days in a mixture of holy fear and expectant joy. The four weeks of Advent help us to acknowledge that we do not hide from the realities of darkness. We hold on together, helping one another to return again and again, clinging to the truth that Jesus the Christ was, is, and will be our Light. With each passing week, with the lighting of blue candles on an evergreen wreath, as we immerse ourselves in scripture

and prayer, we affirm this truth and hope. For the One who once came in humility by way of Bethlehem's manger, David's donkey, and Calvary's cross, continues to come to us each and every day.

So let us again enter and join the Advent song. Let us mark time, in and through the Word and the good works made known. Let's do as the hymn writer of old penned. "People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table. People look east, and sing today – Love, the Guest, is on the way." - *People Look East, Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 248.*

Blessed Advent, Christmas Joy!
Deacon Beth



Save the Date – Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting will be **Sunday, January 27**, immediately following the 11:00 worship.



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

Non-Profit
Organization
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Permit No. 315

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

Return Service Requested

Pastors

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

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

Label

REFORMATION TIMES

DECEMBER 2018

Called by Christ, we

INVITE all people

SERVE our neighbors

BUILD a living faith

Sunday, December 9
St. Nicholas Celebration

Sunday, December 16
Caroling

Sunday, December 23
Hanging of the Greens

Monday, December 24
Christmas Eve Worship at 2, 4, 6 & 8 pm

Tuesday, December 25
Christmas Day Worship at 10 am