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# REFORMATION TIMES

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December 2020

## Advent Resources and Worship

During Advent worship each Sunday at 10:00 am on Zoom, the service will include the lighting of the candles on the Advent wreath. You may want to light the candles on your Advent wreath in your home as part of those services as well.

You will find a great variety of resources for observing the season of Advent (including daily devotions) at [relcmedia.org/advent](http://relcmedia.org/advent).

Our worship together during Advent will also include these highlights:

Nov. 29 (Advent 1) - Longing for the Light liturgy

Dec. 6 (Advent 2) - Visit from St. Nicholas

Dec. 20 (Advent 4) - Blessing of the Greens

## Christmas Worship Schedule

These worship experiences will be held on Zoom.

### Christmas Eve

4:00 pm – a service designed especially for families with children which will include carols, candlelight, and communion (see the article on the *ABC's of Christmas* on page 2).

7:00 pm – traditional Christmas Eve worship with carols, candlelight and communion.

### Christmas Day

10:00 am – worship featuring the story of *Jesus, the Word* as the sermon.

### Christmas 1 (Sunday, Dec. 27)

10:00 am – a service of lessons and canticles of Christ's birth.

## SILENT NIGHT

### Outdoor Christmas Worship

Join Reformation members and friends for a special brief (15-20 minutes) outdoor Christmas worship!

- Services will be held outdoors on the east parking lot.
- Masks and social distancing will be required.
- A reservation for a specific date and time will be required.
- Reservations will be made per household and there will be a strict limit of 15 households per service.
- Plan to stand or bring your own chair for the service.
- The brief service will include scripture, prayers, music, candlelight, and communion.

Go to [relcmedia.org/silentnight](http://relcmedia.org/silentnight) (or call the church office if you do not have access to a computer) to reserve a space for your household at one of the services:

- Sunday, Dec. 20, 4:00 pm (especially for those with difficulty driving at night)
- Sunday, Dec. 20, 6:00 pm
- Monday, Dec. 21, 6:00 pm
- Monday, Dec. 21, 7:00 pm
- Tuesday, Dec. 22, 6:00 pm
- Tuesday, Dec. 22, 7:00 pm

Services will be held weather permitting. In the case of cancellation due to weather, additional dates or times may be added.



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

**Steven Bingeman** entered eternal life on October 20. A funeral service was held on October 28, 2020.

**Jackson Carl Lesser**, child of Melissa and Doug Lesser, was baptized on November 8, 2020.

## CHRISTMAS PAGEANT **ABC's of Christmas**

Join us as we celebrate Christmas with a special message for all ages!

Be part of our Christmas 2020 Virtual pageant. Children of all ages are invited to choose a role by selecting a letter and the accompanying phrase which they will say. Contact Pastor Alina ([pastoralina@relcmedia.org](mailto:pastoralina@relcmedia.org)) to sign up for a part.

Then, join us for a virtual Christmas Eve worship at 4:00 pm on December 24 to see our full ABC's of Christmas in worship!

*The ABC's of Christmas are written by Erin Klassen and used with permission.*

## **Celebrate Christmas@Home**

Christmas @ Home packets are available! These simple activities can be done in your home on Christmas Day and are great for all ages! Packets will be available at *Silent Night: Outdoor Christmas Worship* or can be mailed to you at home. Please contact Pastor Alina or Deacon Beth for more information or to request one to be mailed to you.

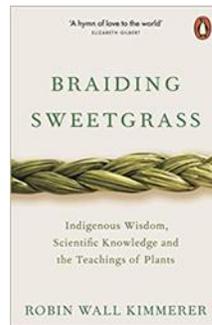
## FAITH-LIFE CONNECTIONS

### **Practice Hope In Advent**

Gather Sunday mornings at 11:00 am on Zoom beginning Dec. 6 for reflection, community-building, and contemplative prayer utilizing the Sunday gospel readings and reflections from *Living Well Through Advent: Practicing Hope With All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind*. Download *Living Well Through Advent* at [relcmedia.org/advent](http://relcmedia.org/advent). Zoom links for this opportunity are sent weekly via email and are also located on our Virtual Church webpage.

## COMING IN JANUARY

### **New Sunday Book Study**



A new Sunday morning book study of *Braiding Sweetgrass* starts January 10 on Zoom. *Braiding Sweetgrass*, by Dr. Robin Wall Kimmerer, mother, scientist, and decorated professor and member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, is a “hymn of love for this world.”

Order your book early through your favorite bookstore. This book is also available in Kindle and Audible format. Questions? Contact Laura Reiter (610-517-9234).

## **REFORMATION TIMES**

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**Reformation Lutheran Church**

Deadline: Noon the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month  
Materials to: [newsletter@relcmedia.org](mailto:newsletter@relcmedia.org)

Congregation Council and Officers  
Debbie Conley, *President*; Marilyn Gilroy, *Vice President*; Beverly Norton, *Secretary*; Tom Conroy, *Treasurer*; Pat Burke, Kristen Chorney, John Grantland, Megan Gress, Dick Hughey, Matteo Machado, Uli Neubert, Mike Polito, Pastor Alina Gayeuski, Pastor Wayne Matthias-Long

## “Good Gifts” Change Lives

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](http://ELCA.org/goodgifts).
2. Make your donation to ELCA Good Gifts.
3. A selection of printable cards and eCards are also available to print at [ELCA.org/goodgifts](http://ELCA.org/goodgifts). (While gifts to [ELCA.org/goodgifts](http://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](http://lwrgifts.org) for additional “good gift” options.)

## All Our Losses, All Our Grief

How do we cope with loss and grief during the holidays? One way is to be part of a safe place group where stories are told, people intentionally listen, and all feelings are acceptable. Join Deacon Beth for two evenings of storytelling and listening, Wednesdays, December 2 and 9, 6:30 pm to 8 pm. Contact Deacon Beth at [deaconbeth@relcmedia.org](mailto:deaconbeth@relcmedia.org) for details.

WITH THE WELCOME CHURCH

## Christmas Worship on the Parkway

The Welcome Church gathers for brief outdoor worship, supporting those experiencing homelessness or transitions, outside the Franklin Institute in Aviator Park. On Sunday afternoon, December 27, at 3 pm, Reformation will provide prepackaged snack bags to all attenders. Join those who gather at Aviator Park at 2:45 pm. Masks are mandatory at all times and all attenders are asked to abide by local social distance guidelines. Contact Community Action Ministry Team Leader, Linda Bucher at [lindabucher1@verizon.net](mailto:lindabucher1@verizon.net) if you have questions and/or plan to attend.

## Fill Christmas Food Bags

Help provide a Christmas food bag with nonperishable items, along with grocery gift cards, to Chester County Migrant Ministry, the Philadelphia Group, and Second Time Around Parents (STAP). Grocery gift cards from Giant and ShopRite are requested. Contact Linda Bucher or the Church Office if you would like a bag, a list of items to purchase, or an envelope for monetary donation. Christmas Bags Drop Day is Monday, December 14, 9 - 11 am or 5:30 - 7 pm at Reformation's main entry. Masks are required. If you need to arrange an alternate drop off time, please contact Sally Burkam (610-566-8737), Linda Lorino (610-566-0862), or Linda Bucher at (610-566-0862).





## January Blood Drive

Give the gift of life. A Red Cross Blood Drive is scheduled at Reformation on Sunday, January 17, 9am - 2pm. Register online at <https://www.redcross.org/give-blood.html>

If you are curious about what it might be like to make a blood donation or have questions, please contact Reformation's blood drive coordinator Jessica Reitano at 610-353-6665 or at [jandjcreations.net](http://jandjcreations.net).

## Annual Meeting Scheduled

Our Annual Meeting will be on **Sunday, January 31**. The presentation on church finances will be on **Sunday, January 24**. Look for details in the January newsletter regarding whether the meeting will be online or in-person.

## Tuscarora Youth Retreat

The Tuscarora Lutheran Youth Retreat, for all youth in grades 6-12, will be held **April 9-11, 2021**. A decision about the format – in person or virtual – will be made in February. More information will be communicated with parents via e-mail. Please speak with Pastor Alina if you have any questions.

## Meet Online for Book Club

Read along with the Reformation Book Club and join in the conversation! The next discussion will be on January 19, 2021, at 7:00 pm. The book will be *The Jane Austen Society* by Natalie Jenner.

You are invited to participate in the discussion whether you have finished the book or not! Contact Laura Reiter ([longreiter@gmail.com](mailto:longreiter@gmail.com)) to receive the Zoom link.

Thanks to the members at Reformation that sent me cards and well wishes on my 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday. It helped make it a great day.

Woodie Benson

## From the Pastors and Deacon

Dear Reformation,

We come now to the season of Advent, weary from months of changes and uncertainty.

Advent is a season of waiting and watching, of expectation and preparation. Above all, Advent is a season of hope.

That sense of hope is expressed in a favorite Advent song, *All Earth is Hopeful* (ELW 266):

All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!  
Furrows lie open for God's creative task:  
this, the labor of people who struggle to see  
how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.  
*(stanza 1)*

A focus of the season of Advent is preparing for the coming of God in Christ Jesus. Much of our attention is concentrated on the coming of God in Jesus at Bethlehem. At the same time, the appointed scripture readings for the Sundays in Advent direct our attention especially to the coming of God in Christ at the end of time. Both of those are important aspects of our faith life. But a third dimension that also deserves our attention is the coming of God in our lives each day.

For many people this third dimension gets the least attention in these days of COVID fatigue. One way of dealing with the weariness we may feel is by taking time every day to reflect on two questions which can help us be mindful of the coming of God in our lives each day.

**How did God come to me today?**

**How did God come to someone through me today?**

God is always present and active in our midst. An Advent mindfulness can help us to be especially aware of God's presence in our lives and thereby deepen and strengthen our relationship with our loving God.

As the fourth stanza of *All Earth is Hopeful* puts it:

We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.  
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live  
in our world; he is present, in neighbors we see  
our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.

Even when we cannot see clearly the road ahead, our hearts and our eyes can catch the glimmer of God's presence in our lives because God promises to be with us in the midst of all the challenges we face in life.

God of Promise, God of Hope, into our weary world, come.

In Advent Expectation and Hope,

Deacon Beth Barkhau  
Pastor Alina Gayeuski  
Pastor Wayne Matthias-Long

## Shopping Can Benefit Reformation



Planning to shop on Amazon?  
Remember to use [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)  
and specify Reformation as the  
charity to benefit from your shopping.

## Addresses Needed

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

## ECO TIP

### Avoid Disposable Dishes

**This holiday season, use the good dishes and cloth napkins.** Disposable dishes and plastic utensils create a ton of waste. If reusable won't work, choose disposable plates, cups, napkins and utensils made from 100 percent post-consumer waste recycled paper, sugarcane and corn – they are compostable, too.



To the Congregation at Reformation Lutheran Church:

We want to sincerely thank the pastors and members of Reformation for their kindness and support following the death of Steve, our son/husband/dad/brother/uncle. We really appreciated their attendance at his Viewing/Service, the many cards and expressions of sympathy, and the prayers offered for our comfort and healing.

The Bingeman Family

Ron & Carol

Andrea, Sarah & Tyler

Dave, Janet, Alexis & Rachel



## 2020 Gift Giving Opportunities

The annual December St. Nicholas celebration continues at Reformation. Visit [relcmedia.org/stnick](http://relcmedia.org/stnick) to access agency links, wish lists and additional information. Questions? Please contact Community Action Ministry Team leader Linda Bucher at 610-996-7041 or Deacon Beth at [deaconbeth@relcmedia.org](mailto:deaconbeth@relcmedia.org).

### **Caring for Friends (formerly Aid for Friends)**

*This ministry serves isolated homebound persons, primarily the frail elderly, in the Greater Philadelphia area, with free daily home-cooked meals delivered weekly by volunteer visitors. The goal is to help people enhance their quality of life, maintain their independence, and remain in their own homes for as long as possible.*

The Caring for Friends Christmas Amazon wish list includes both personal care items and nonperishable food. Visit [relcmedia.org/stnick](http://relcmedia.org/stnick) for links to Caring for Friends and their Amazon wish list.

### **Chester Eastside, Inc.**

*A respected force for good in Chester, this agency provides food and clothing ministries, basic tutoring and educational enrichment programs, crisis counseling and community advocacy programs.*

Chester Eastside, Inc. hopes to provide gift cards to 300 families this holiday season. Visit [relcmedia.org/stnick](http://relcmedia.org/stnick) for the links to Chester Eastside, Inc., and their donation page.

### **Lutheran Settlement House**

*Since its founding in 1902, LSH has served vulnerable children, adults and families living in the inner city. Today they serve the newly homeless, abused women and children, and low-income seniors.*

Lutheran Settlement House's Amazon wish lists have items for LSH Homeless Shelter, Jane Addams Place, and the Adult Education and Career Development programs. Visit [relcmedia.org/stnick](http://relcmedia.org/stnick) for the links to Lutheran Settlement House and Amazon wish lists.

### **Migrant Ministry of Chester County**

*This ministry works year-round with people who harvest mushrooms in Kennett Square, providing warm clothing, legal counsel, education and additional support programs. Migrant Ministry of Chester County seeks to provide new full-size blankets for their clients this holiday season.*

Migrant Ministry of Chester County is in need of new full-size blankets. Donations of blankets can be brought to the church for Migrant Ministry on Monday, December 14, 9 to 11 am and 5:30 to 7 pm. Visit [relcmedia.org/stnick](http://relcmedia.org/stnick) for the link to Migrant Ministry of Chester County.

### **KenCrest**

*KenCrest supports community development by exploring possibilities, mobilizing resources, and empowering dreams through work in early childhood development and with individuals with developmental disabilities.*

KenCrest is collecting gift cards, games, household items, and toys. Visit [relcmedia.org/stnick](http://relcmedia.org/stnick) for the links to KenCrest and their Amazon wish list.

### **Cradles to Crayons**

*Cradles to Crayons provides children from birth through age 12 who are living in homeless or low-income situations with the essential items they need to thrive – at home, at school and at play. The items they supply are free of charge by engaging and connecting communities.*

Cradles to Crayons is collecting winter outerwear, underwear, and pajamas. Visit [relcmedia.org/stnick](http://relcmedia.org/stnick) for the links to Cradles to Crayons and their Amazon wish list.



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Permit No. 315

Sunday Worship: 10:00 am on Zoom

*Pastors*

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

**Return Service Requested**



# REFORMATION TIMES

## December 2020

**MISSION:** Called by Christ,  
we **INVITE** all people,  
**SERVE** our neighbors, and  
**BUILD** a living faith.

**WELCOME:** Called by Christ, we invite and welcome all people. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, age, abilities, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or employment status. We welcome all without regard to religious belief or identity, citizenship, political views, or anything that might divide us. Our unity is in Christ.

**Join us for worship and other faith building resources at [relcmedia.org/virtualchurch](https://relcmedia.org/virtualchurch)**

**Watch past worships at [vimeo.com/relcmedia](https://vimeo.com/relcmedia)**

- Dec. 6 – St. Nicholas Visit**
- Dec. 20 – Blessing the Greens**
- Dec. 20-22 – Outdoor Services**
- Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve, 4 & 7**
- Dec. 25 – Christmas Day, 10**