
REFORMATION TIMES

October 2020

Sharing God's Gifts

As a family of faith we have been "together" while remaining physically apart for more than six months. Despite that separation of distance, we have never stopped being "together in love" – united by the Spirit, worshiping and serving in the name of Christ.

Again this year, as we do every year at this time, we will engage in a



**Together
in Love**

That your hearts may be encouraged and joined together in love. Col. 2:2

period of reflection on the bountiful blessings of God and the opportunity God gives us to share them with others.

In the coming weeks during worship on Zoom we will hear from members of Reformation what it means to them to be part of this congregation which is "together in love." We invite you to reflect on that in your own life as well.

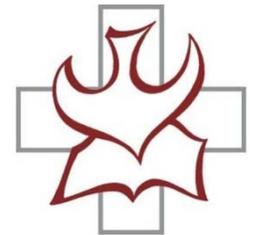
Despite the challenges of living in a time of pandemic, our mission to *Invite, Serve and Build* a living faith has continued unabated thanks to your generosity.

In a few weeks, you will receive your 2021 *Annual Fund* pledge card. It can be completed and returned in the mail or online (more details will follow). We will celebrate Commitment Sunday on October 25, Reformation Sunday, as we celebrate the 70th Anniversary of our congregation's founding.

Thank you for your ongoing generous support which bears witness to God's generous love for all people.

Celebrate Our Confirmands!

On **Sunday, October 18**, during our online worship, eight students will affirm the promises made at their baptisms during the Rite of Confirmation. This year's Confirmands are: **Sarah**



Bingeman, Tyler Bingeman, Natalie D'Italia, Kevin Gamlin, Cristina Machado, Elizabeth Reitano, and Tyler Troutman. Together, we continue to pray for these young members as we celebrate what God is doing in their lives!

Log On With Your Pets

You and your pet are invited to a Blessing of the Animals service on **Saturday, October 3**, at 10:00 am. The service will be held online. You can log on to the service through our webpage. All of God's creatures are welcome!

You are also invited to make a donation to the Providence Animal Shelter. Please visit their website to learn about donation drop offs, shop and ship from their Amazon Wish List, or to make a financial donation:

providenceac.org/support-us/wishlist/





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

Warren Given entered eternal life on August 28. A private burial service was held September 9.

Andrew Benzing, Xavier Berkey, Paul Fernandez, Elisha Kalule, Lucy Kubica, Jameson Lavery, and Colin Merino received their Bibles during worship on September 13.

Reformation Scribes Abound!

Reformation Scribes: The Gospel of Mark project continues throughout October. So far over 65 members and friends are participating! There is still time to be part of this new dynamic faith engagement project for all ages. Visit our website relcmedia.org to learn more and register. All scribed passages are to be returned to Reformation *no later* than **October 31**. Please place all scribed passages in the Gospel of Mark Project plastic bin located near the front church entry doors. To learn more or have questions answered, email Deacon Beth at deaconbeth@relcmedia.org. Let's serve together in love!

Help Clean Up Rose Tree Road



Join us for the fall clean-up of Rose Tree Road! We will meet at the church on **Saturday, October 3**, at 10 am and work for one hour, until 11. Mark the date on your calendar now. The more the merrier. (Orange vests and gloves will be provided.)

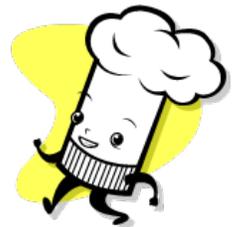
Celebrate St. Luke



On **Sunday, October 11**, we will commemorate St. Luke the Evangelist in worship. Tradition says that Luke was a physician by profession. As such, commemorations honoring him often include a rite of healing. During worship that Sunday we will include a Rite of Healing. Following the end of our online worship there will be an opportunity to join a Zoom meeting and have private prayer with a pastor or the deacon.

Get Your Recipe Book

Make sure to pick up your copy of our Caring For Friends Fall 2020 Cookbook. It contains hearty recipes to fill up your family and those living with food insecurity. Be sure to get your copy at our next Worship on the Way. Thank you to Reformation member, Danielle Burke RD, LDN, Nutrition, for putting the recipe book together!



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

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

Celebrating 70 Years Together In God's Love

Dear Reformation,

On **October 30** our congregation will celebrate our 70th anniversary!

While our world looks very different today than it did in 1950, we can look back over these past 70 years with thanksgiving for the life and witness of this congregation. As we face our own new challenges of living in this unprecedented time, we know that we are being cheered on by the saints who have gone before us. Their faith and faithfulness continue to be a marker of the spirit of Reformation – through the joy of welcoming all people, the unwavering commitment of serving our neighbors, and the enthusiasm of building a living faith.

Now, more than ever, our commitment to our mission, the ministry that has been shared over generations, and the way that members of Reformation continue to remain together in love is something that is worth celebrating.

We join you in giving thanks to God for the work of the gospel that we have been about as the people of God at Reformation Lutheran Church in Media. As the founding members of Reformation stepped out in faith to start this community of faith, may we too continue live out our calling to share God's love with all the world.

Together with you in love,

Pastor Wayne Matthias-Long
Pastor Alina Gayeuski
Deacon Beth Barkhau

Reformation Sunday is Oct. 25



Our congregation has the name “Reformation Lutheran Church” because it was founded on Reformation Sunday, **October 29, 1950**. This year, on Reformation

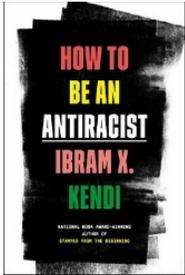
Sunday, October 25, we will celebrate the 70th Anniversary of our founding. Part of that celebration will be the recognition of our Heritage Members (those who have been members for 50 years or more). Reformation Sunday will also be “Commitment Sunday” as we renew our commitment to be faithful financial stewards, supporting the mission of the church. Join us online for worship as we celebrate being “Together in Love” for 70 years!

Help Women In Need

You can help women living with housing insecurity on **Sunday, October 25**. Reformation will again provide healthy food items and personal hygiene products for The Well, a secure women's shelter located in Philadelphia. Four times a year, donations such as small casseroles, baked items, fresh fruit, canned soups and vegetables, along with pack and carry breakfast or lunch items are needed. Feminine hygiene products, incontinence pads, and other toiletries help restock the shelter's cupboards. To make donations, be a part of the delivery team, or learn more contact Reformation's The Well coordinator, Kristen Chorney at kchorney621@gmail.com. Thank you for your help, generosity, and continued support!

Faith-Life Connections

Sundays at 11:00 am on Zoom



Continuing each week in October, join Melissa Lavery as she leads an online discussion on the book *How to Be An Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi.

This book is an important guide for anyone looking to learn more about antiracism and its relationship within our own lives and communities. Participants are asked to purchase a personal copy of the book. This book is available in Kindle and Audible formats as well from Amazon.

Zoom links are sent out weekly via Constant Contact. All are welcome. Contact Melissa at mnm62511@gmail.com with any questions.

Be Still – Holy Interruptions



Utilizing our Reformation theme **Together in Love**, participants will have time for reflection and creative expression on **Saturday, November 14**, 10:00 am to

noon. Through poetry, art, guided meditation and reflection prompts, all are invited to a morning of intentional quiet space. The November *Reformation Times* will provide additional details. Questions? Contact Deacon Beth at deaconbeth@relcmedia.org.

Fight Hunger – Welcome Bread

In these pressing and uncompromising times of COVID-19, as food insecurity exponentially grows, the SEPA Synod's The Welcome Church has launched a new feeding program entitled Welcome Bread.

Welcome Bread is a food program designed to produce nutritious meals that can be delivered quickly to hungry people. All that is needed to participate is white bread, grape jelly, creamy peanut butter, and zipper sandwich bags along with a willingness to make sandwiches. Since the onset of COVID-19, over 30,000 sandwiches have been delivered to people living on the streets in both the city of Philadelphia and the surrounding counties.

Welcome Bread asks the following: use only white bread, loaded up with store brand jelly and creamy peanut butter (better for people with dental issues). Place the sandwich, left whole, not cut in half, in a sandwich size zipper bag (very important for transfer and storage).



You can participate by dropping off completed sandwiches or sandwich making items (white bread, creamy peanut butter, jelly or zip bags) at each of Reformation's *Worship on the Way* events scheduled for **Saturday October 24**, and **Saturday November 21**, at 10:00 am.

To learn more, contact Deacon Beth at deaconbeth@relcmedia.org. Let's serve our neighbors and build a living faith, **together in love!**

All Saints Sunday



All Saints Sunday is a time when the church celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who are the body of Christ. So too, it is a day for us

to remember all who have died in Christ and whose baptism is complete. Our All Saints' Day Worship on **November 1** will include remembrance of Reformation members who have died since last All Saints' Day.

Prepare for First Communion



It is our practice at Reformation that children receive their first communion at the desire of their parents. This can be

done for any age (or ages if you wish for siblings to receive first communion together).

First communion instruction is an at-home lesson set that can be completed at your own time and pace. Any time we celebrate communion as a congregation is a date that can be chosen. Currently, online worship on the second Sunday of the month and Worship on the Way at the end of October and November include the celebration of communion.

Families desiring for their child to receive their first communion should contact Pastor Alina.

Many Thanks

To Kristen Ziegler for designing the "Together in Love" logos.

To our "check signers" for the church, Dick Hughey and Sue Pritchard, and for Reformation School, Jennifer Breen, Marilyn Gilroy, and Connie Richardson, who have been going to the church regularly throughout the pandemic to help our operations run smoothly.

To the Property Team, Paul Stearns, Dave Smith, Dave Black, Bill Grauer, Ron Fender, Ron Bingeman, Pat Burke, Ryan Burke, and Dave Chorney for addressing the long list of repairs and maintenance in the building as well as ongoing maintenance issues.

To the Gardening Angels, Toini and Peter Scherer, Jeanne Robertson, and Sandy Coll for maintaining the beautiful landscaping around the building throughout the pandemic.

To Jen Troutman for keeping our website (especially the Virtual Church webpage) and social media up to date.

To Linda Bucher and Karen Chorney for coordinating the beautiful and meaningful Prayer Walk for the World and to all the volunteers who helped make it so special.

To Gary Kamin and Dave Helms for regularly counting the offerings and contributions twice a month throughout the pandemic.

To each member of Reformation for your faithful and generous support!

Invite ALL People



On **Saturday, October 10**, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod will be virtually hosting the annual *In God's Image: Shaping your Ministry to be Inclusive and Safe for LGBTQIA+ persons* event.

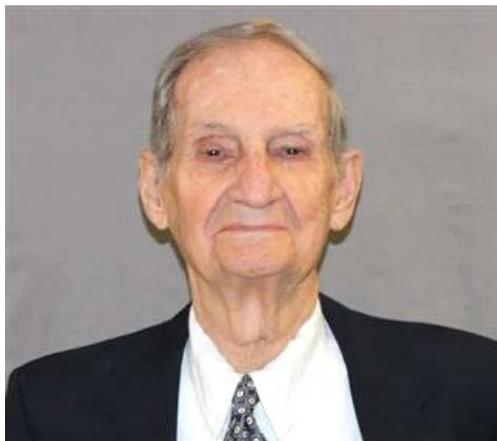
All members of Reformation are invited to attend as this event is open to all who are interested in learning about these topics and leading in their congregations.

Like the **In God's Image** page on Facebook for all updates and event information:
facebook.com/ingodsimagesepa

Please contact Pastor Alina with any questions.

Happy Birthday, Woodie!

Woodie Benson, who has been a member of Reformation for nearly 60 years, celebrated his 100th birthday September 4. Thank you to all the members who sent cards to wish Woodie a Happy Birthday.



Worship On The Way

On **Saturdays, October 24, and November 21**, from 10:00 to 11:00 am, we will be offering a new worship experience at Reformation called *Worship on the Way*, a kind of “drive through” worship opportunity.

During these services, everyone will remain in their own vehicle at all times. We recommend that each car only have persons from the same household.

As always, we recommend that persons who are at high risk take all necessary precautions to protect themselves from exposure and stay home when that is deemed the safest option. Everyone who attends is required to wear a mask at all times when they are on the church property.

When you arrive at Reformation you will follow all signs and proceed around the church building from the west parking lot, around the back of the building, and out through the east parking lot. As you proceed around the building, you will be stopping at various stations to participate in the different parts of worship while remaining in your vehicle.

The stations will include: check-in, “scripture to go”, communion, offering, where you can drop off financial gifts as well as other in-kind donations, and blessing/sending. You will also have an opportunity to pick up or drop off other materials at Reformation. For example, you will be able to collect Caring for Friends food trays or drop off completed Reformation Scribes entries.

Please contact the pastors or deacon if you have any questions about this new way for us to worship during this time.

We need volunteers to help with WOTW. Please contact Pastor Alina if you can volunteer for Worship On The Way.

Support Disaster Response



On the first Sunday of every month during worship we receive a special offering for the World Hunger Appeal or Lutheran Disaster

Response (LDR). Congregation Council has designated the special offering on October 4 to be designated for LDR for West Coast Wildfires, Midwest Windstorms, and Gulf Coast Hurricane Relief. Every dollar contributed for this purpose to Reformation will be matched by our Holiday Offering or Endowment Outreach Fund. You can give online or by mail. More information about LDR relief can be found at the website elca.org/ldr.

Meet Online for Book Club



Read along with the Reformation Book Club and join in the conversation! The upcoming titles and dates are:

October 20 – *Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead

November 17 – *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins

January 19, 2021 - *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) to receive the Zoom link for 7:00 pm on those dates.

ECO TIP

Reduce, Reduce, Reduce

Of the three R's, reduce, reuse, and recycle, reduce is the only one that actually affects the amount of plastic waste in our world. Reduce may also be the most difficult because so many of our convenience products require plastic packaging.

The time to reduce your plastic is when you shop. Think about the waste created before you buy. Instead of buying cat litter in a plastic jug, get the one that comes in a cardboard box. Instead of buying pudding, Jello, applesauce and fruit in individual plastic cups, make your own pudding and Jello and buy jars of applesauce and canned fruit and portion them into your own small containers for convenience. Stop buying water bottles. Get a water filter to fill reusable water bottles.

Challenge yourself to see how much you can reduce the plastic that goes into the recycling bin in your house.





102 W. Rose Tree Road • Media, PA 19063
relcmedia.org • 610.891.0600

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

Pastors

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

Label

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October 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

Watch past worships at
vimeo.com/relcmedia