
REFORMATION TIMES

September 2020

Ministry Goes Forward During Pandemic

Our Gathering Safely Task Force and Congregation Council continue to develop plans to help us move forward safely in ministry in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. A letter from President Debbie Conley was recently mailed to the congregation with information regarding the policies adopted by Council. A copy of that letter is also available on our website (relcmedia.org). The Task Force and Council will continue to assess the situation as it evolves. In the meantime, our many and various ministries will carry on as described in the pages of this newsletter.

New Worship Opportunities in September

The recent letter from President Debbie Conley also included information about two new worship opportunities which will begin in September. That information is also posted on our website.

Worship will continue to be offered online every Sunday at 10:00 am. On Sunday, September 13 (and on the second Sunday of the month through the fall – Oct. 11 and Nov. 8), the online worship will include Holy Communion. Please see the information on the website for more details.

The second new opportunity will be *Worship on the Way*, a kind of “drive through” worship opportunity in which you can experience worship, including Holy Communion, at several “stations” while remaining safely in your vehicle. Pre-registration is requested (but not required) to help us with planning. See the website for more information.

Be A Reformation Scribe



Reformation Scribes: The Gospel of Mark Project is a new faith engagement project for Reformation members and friends. Participants of all ages will create a handwritten copy of Mark's Gospel (in the NRSV translation). The scribed gospel will be used each week in worship beginning in December 2020.

How can you participate? Go to our website (relcmedia.org) or watch for special Reformation Scribes - The Gospel of Mark announcements in your email inbox for the link to sign up to contribute to this new fun faith engagement project. When you register you will be asked to choose one of the 90 scripture sections to scribe. Perfect handwriting is far from required. All that is needed to participate is a willing spirit and your favorite pen or pencil.

To learn more or have questions answered, email Deacon Beth deaconbeth@relcmedia.org. Let's get ready to create something wonderful, together!

Blessing for a New School Year

Worship on **September 13** will include a special blessing as we celebrate the start of another school year and God's blessings in our lives every day!





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

Samuel Tease entered eternal life on July 31. A service will be scheduled at a future date.

Jane Umstead entered eternal life on August 6. A private burial service was held.

Arlene Moyer entered eternal life on August 18. The service will be scheduled at a future date.

Michael Wright, son of Timothy and Megan Wright, was baptized on July 25 at Reformation and celebrated in worship on August 2.

Evan Lambertsen, son of Amanda and Ben Lambertsen, was baptized on July 26 at Reformation and celebrated in worship on August 9.

Meet Online for Book Club



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

September 15 – *Small Great Things* by Jodi Piccoult

October 20 – *Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead

November 17 – *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins

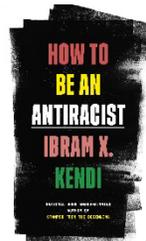
January 19, 2021 - *The Jane Austen Society* by Natalie Jenner

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.

Faith Builders

Faith-Life Connection

Sundays at 11:00 am on Zoom



Beginning on Sun., Sept. 20, at 11:00 am, and continuing for six sessions, Melissa Lavery will lead an online discussion class 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. How can we navigate this ever-present issue, especially when confronted with our own preconceived ideas or those of our friends and family? Explore definitions of racism, culture, color, biology, ethnicity, behavior, class, and many more concepts that make being human a challenge. Participants are asked to purchase a copy of the book before our first class on September 20. This book is available in Kindle and Audible formats, as well as for quick shipping via Amazon.

Watch for Zoom link information on our Virtual Church webpage at relcmedia.org. Contact Melissa at mnm62511@gmail.com with any questions.

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

From the Pastors and Deacon

Dear Reformation,

As we start a new program year at Reformation, we are reminded of the unique challenge we have faced over the past few months of being the church and not gathering as a community in person. Instead, the church has been drawn out into our daily lives in new ways.

When Paul wrote his letters to the churches of the first century, he often regretted that they could not be together in person.

However, he continued to pray for them, to encourage them, and to celebrate the way that through God's love the church continued to be the body of Christ in this world.

Despite our being separated at this time we know that we are always connected and pulled together in God's love for all of God's people.

This year we will be celebrating that connectedness of our community of faith and the joy we have in being together in love through these days.

Bible Presentations



Bibles will be presented to our 3rd grade students on **Sunday, September 13**, during worship.

Together in Love



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

We invite you to look for the blessings of the Holy Spirit who is still pulling us together as the people of God at Reformation, the ways we have been able to live out our mission in service to the world, and the way we have been connected to each other through God's love. And we invite you to celebrate. To live into that incredible gift of community that cannot be held in the walls of any building, but instead reaches out to us and holds us together in love.

We are grateful for each of you and the way you show God's love in this world!

Thank you for continuing to celebrate our mission and ministry at Reformation.

In love,

Deacon Beth Barkhau
Pastor Alina Gayeuski
Pastor Wayne Matthias-Long

Prayer Walk for the World

In these times as our world hurts, we invite our neighbors and friends to join Reformation in our first Prayer Walk for the World. It will be held **Sun., Sept. 13** (rain date Sun., Sept. 20), 11 am to 4 pm. Each participant will walk the beautiful perimeter of the church grounds stopping at significant points to pray for important issues and people in our world, and engage in creative activities. Everyone will practice social distancing and wear masks. If you would like to assist with a prayer station or have questions contact Karen Chorney (karenchorney1621@gmail.com), coordinator for Prayer Walk for the World.

Back to School Supply Success



The Summer 2020 Back to School Supply drive was a huge success. So far 306 filled backpacks have already been delivered to Chester Eastside

and After School Blast, based at Christ Lutheran in Upper Darby, and 200 are nearing completion. Can you say, "WOW!" Thank you to everyone who used the Amazon Wish List and sent supplies, contributed with financial donations, or dropped off in-kind gifts. A total of 16 faith communities took part in this year's effort coordinated by Jody and Marge Troyan members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Wallingford. Thank you, Reformation!



Help Feed The Homeless Thursday, September 24

For 25 years members of Reformation have served evening meals to residents and neighbors of the Life Center of Eastern Delaware County, located at 63rd and Market Streets in Upper Darby.

With the onset of COVID-19, the evening community meal program was streamlined to meet the needs of clients who reside temporarily at the Life Center. This means instead of preparing 120 evening meals, Reformation now provides breakfast bags, hearty lunches, and a hot evening meal for thirty sheltered residents.

How might you join the effort to meet the needs of those who hunger at the Life Center during this time of pandemic?

Contact Dave Smith (610-719-7190 or yanky68@comast.net) to learn how you can help by preparing and cooking a hot casserole, sorting and packaging meal items, or transporting meals to the Life Center on September 24.

Thank you, Reformation, for serving our neighbors. Together we build a living faith!

Something New!

Reformation's commitment to those experiencing housing and food insecurity continues to expand. Starting this Fall, Pat Donnelly will coordinate Reformation volunteers to serve evening meals at Christ Lutheran Church, Upper Darby. This dynamic outreach site serves 100 meals twice a week. For more information see the article on p. 5.

Serve Our Neighbors

Reformation's Community Action Ministry coordinates opportunities for you to serve our neighbors in need. As we move towards fall life together, help with one or all of these feeding ministries. The local need is great and everyone's effort helps build a living faith.

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.

How can you help this fall? Attend *Worship on The Way*, **Sept. 26, Oct. 24, and Nov. 21**, and pick up container kits for meals and/or soup, fill containers with meals or soup, and return to Reformation at designated time.

Contact: Larry Filtz (lawrencefiltz@gmail.com) or Community Action Chair, Linda Bucher (lindabucher1@verizon.net).

Christ Church, Upper Darby, Meal Program

This community-based walk-in meal program provides healthy meals several days a week for area residents in need. Reformation assists with serving, transporting items, and delivering meals to isolated members in the community.

To be placed on the email list to sign up to volunteer for serving in person, donating items, and delivering prepared meals, contact:

Pat Donnelly (pdonnellybh@gmail.com)

The Well

The Well is a secure women's shelter sponsored jointly by SEPA Synod ELCA, Presbytery of Philadelphia, and the Episcopal Diocese of Philadelphia. Reformation prepares and delivers meals for this micro-shelter serving the 12 women who reside at The Well. Due to COVID-19 the needs of The Well pivot. To learn more and be a part of a team response, contact:

Kristen Chorney (kchorney621@gmail.com)

Media Food Bank

Media Food Bank in downtown Media at First Church, serves all who are experiencing food insecurity. The needs of Delaware County residents continue to grow. How can you help right now? Shop for one extra bag of groceries each week when you go to the store. Donate shelf stable items such as sugar, flour, jars of peanut butter, canned or individually served bagged tuna or chicken, soups, dried beans or pasta, boxes of cereal, juice bottled or boxed, individually wrapped snack items for school lunches, paper products or hygiene supplies. Items may be dropped off at Media Food Bank each day Mon. to Fri. between noon and 2 pm.

Contact: Deacon Beth
(deaconbeth@relcmedia.org)

The Welcome Church

The Welcome Church is a church without walls in Philadelphia located on the Parkway across from the Franklin Institute. The church was established to serve those who are experiencing homelessness. During COVID-19, services are currently being held on the last Sunday of the month. Reformation serves refreshments several times a year. Currently, bagged meals/snacks and transportable single-use beverages are requested.

Reformation's current **tentative** serving dates are Nov. 29 and Dec. 27. If you would like to donate single-serving wrapped snack bars, cracker packets, or bottles/boxed juices or water, contact:

Community Action Chair Linda Bucher
(lindabucher1@verizon.net)

GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS

Month of Serving - September

- 1 Make a list of all the ways you are able to do God's work with your hands.
- 2 Visit the ELCA's website (elca.org) and learn about the work of the church.
- 3 Spend some time outside today and notice the gifts of creation.
- 4 Be a Reformation Scribe and sign up for The Gospel of Mark project relcmedia.org.
- 5 Check in with your immediate neighbors to see if they have a specific need.
- 6 Read through the Serving Our Neighbors email and see how you can support one of our ministry partners.
- 7 Pray for all who labor on behalf of others.
- 8 Write out five things that you are grateful for and thank God for them.
- 9 Donate a book to a free library or little library box in your neighborhood.
- 10 Pray for our companion synod - The Northeast Diocese of the Lutheran Church in Tanzania.
- 11 Take an intentional time of rest today.
- 12 Send a note to a teacher or student offering them a blessing for this school year.
- 13 Visit the Reformation Prayer Path.
- 14 Contact a Reformation Feeding Ministry Team Leader to volunteer at an outreach site.
- 15 Pray for the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Staff.
- 16 Go for a walk through your neighborhood and pray for the homes as you pass them
- 17 Gather a final fall garden harvest or purchase fresh green groceries for local food bank.
- 18 Write a letter to a homebound Reformation member.
- 19 Find two times for a ten-minute rest, quiet sabbath break today.
- 20 Plan to buy some non-perishable food items this week to donate to the Media Food Bank (deliver to the church on September 26).
- 21 Visit the Lutheran World Relief website (lwr.org) and learn about the work they are doing.
- 22 Use the prayer list on our Virtual Church page to pray for members and friends of Reformation for healing and comfort.
- 23 Go for a walk today and pick up any litter you see.
- 24 Call a friend you haven't talked to recently to tell them you are thinking of them.
- 25 Offer to wash a neighbors or family members car.
- 26 Come to Worship on the Way and bring donations for the Media Food Bank.
- 27 Attend Online Worship with a special God's Work, Our Hands celebration.
- 28 Create notes of thanks and give them to your mail delivery, garbage pickup, public workers.
- 29 Help a family who is educating children at home or reach out to a local teacher and offer your assistance.
- 30 Plan for how you will continue doing God's work with your hands in the days ahead.

Blessing of the Animals



You and your pet are invited to a Blessing of the Animals service on **Sat., Oct. 3**, at 10:00 am. The service will be held virtually. All of God's creatures are welcome!

You are also invited to make a donation to the Providence Animal Shelter. Please visit their website (providenceac.org/support-us/wishlist/) to learn about donation drop-offs, shop and ship from their Amazon Wish List, or to make a financial donation.

Let's Get Together Online . . . In a CONNECTION GROUP!

Once again this fall you can be part of a **CONNECTION GROUP** – a great way to connect with others at Reformation.

All Connection Groups will be offered on Zoom video meetings so you can participate from the comfort of your own home!

All groups will begin meeting the week following October 4 and will meet for 7 weekly sessions of about one hour each.

Group leaders will contact group members with specific information after registration closes.

Sign up online at relcmedia.org/connectiongroups. All groups are limited to 20 registrations. Registration will close on **September 28**.

These Connection Groups will be offered:

CG 1 – The Wisdom of the Enneagram

Sundays at 7:00 pm led by Jennifer Troutman

The Enneagram is a spiritually grounded approach to helping people grow in self-knowledge and compassion. It allows you to observe yourself to move beyond reactive patterns and into a life that is much more authentic while also gaining a better understanding of others. We will be using the book, *The Road Back To You*, as we learn about the nine main parts of the enneagram, how they interact within each of us and how they reveal the nature of God within you.

CG 2 – Share Your Inner Movie Critic

Mondays at 8:00 pm led by Loren Hart and Debra Besch

Love movies? Let's talk about selected classic and recent films available on Netflix or Amazon Prime. Each week, you'll receive a discussion guide for the designated movie and watch it on your own. Then we'll gather online to discuss.

CG 3 – Navigating Public Life in a Faith-filled Way

Tuesdays at 7:00 pm led by the Rev. Mike Lengel

There are many challenges in navigating public life today. Many issues in public consciousness cause division. Reasonable people disagree in profound ways on how to address the many crises we

currently are facing. At the same time, our society has separated our handling of politics, economics, religion, and science into separate silos. How do we, as people of faith, integrate our faith into our approach to our public lives? This group will model a positive integration through the careful exploration of a number of controversial topics relevant today.

CG 4 – Sing the (Covid) Blues Away!

Wednesdays at 7:00 pm led by Valerie Rozek

Be part of a choral group while you remain at home by participating in this "virtual choir rehearsal" online! A musical piece will be learned and sung each week, first in parts and then together with a recording of the piece. Some social time will also be part of this group experience. Copies of the musical pieces will be sent in advance to those who register. Ability to read music is not required!

CG 5 – Psalms: The Soundtrack of Our Life

Thursdays at 11:00 am led by Karen Matthias-Long

Rolf Jacobson, Luther Seminary professor and author of *Invitation to the Psalms* has called the book of Psalms the soundtrack of our lives, the background music that reflects our moods or changes in moods. We will explore the book of Psalms in a variety of ways including presentations, video clips, music, and art. Participants will have the opportunity to create their own psalms. Discover how the book of Psalms connects us to our spiritual ancestors through shared emotions and experiences.

CG 6 – Art in the Heart of the Reformation

Thursdays at 7:00 pm led by Sally & Dave Helms

This group will take a look at European art before, during and after the Protestant Reformation, from Giotto to Lucas Cranach to Bernini and so many more! We will focus in the transitions artists made to respond to the splintering of the Christian Church including the art of the Counter-Reformation.



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



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September 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**