

REFORMATION TIMES

December 2021

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

Hanging of the Greens

Everyone is invited to help decorate the tree and hang wreaths and pine roping on **Sunday, December 19**, immediately following the 11:00 worship. Join us also for the Unhanging of the Greens on Sunday, January 2, after the 11:00 worship.

Christmas Worship Schedule

Please note: except for Christmas Day, all services will be held in person and online.

Christmas Eve

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.
- 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

- 10 am – worship **online only** featuring the story of *Jesus, the Word* as the sermon.

Christmas 1 (Sunday, Dec. 26)

- 10 am – a service of scripture readings and canticles of Christ's birth.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Welcome, Andrea Menta



We are pleased to welcome Andrea Menta as our new Administrative Assistant.

Andrea has over 20 years of administrative experience in businesses ranging from homebuilding to medical device development. She resides with her husband, Jeff, their 4 sons and 2 dogs in Drexel Hill. In her spare time, Andrea is a photographer and loves refinishing vintage furniture. Please welcome Andrea in the coming weeks as you have the chance.



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

1 Corinthians 12:26

Leighton Eileen Bonaventure, child of Brianna and Will Bonaventure, was baptized at Reformation on November 14, 2021.

Ava Jane Buchanan and **Benjamin George Buchanan**, children of Lindsey Moretti and Nick Buchanan, were baptized at Reformation on November 14, 2021.

Tucker James Hughes, child of Steve and Shelly Hughes, was baptized at Reformation on November 14, 2021.

Annual Meeting Scheduled

Our Annual Meeting will be on **Sunday, January 30**. The presentation on church finances will be on **Sunday, January 23**. Look for details in the January newsletter regarding whether the meeting will be online or in-person.

Many Thanks

Thanks to Paul Stearns for delivering a large number of boxes of outdated records to a shredding event.

Thanks to Ron Fender, Bill Grauer, Dave Smith, and Paul Stearns for “rescuing” the church sign from the rotting wooden boards and re-positioning the letters on the side of the building (see photo below).



REFORMATION TIMES

Published Monthly by
Reformation Lutheran Church

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

Congregation Council and Officers

Debbie Conley, *President*; John Grantland, *Vice President*; Pat Burke, *Secretary*; Tom Conroy, *Treasurer*, Jamie Anderson, Rachel Bingeman, Kristen Chorney, Eric Hathaway, Uli Neubert, Bev Norton, Mike Polito, Tyler Troutman, Pastor Alina Gayeuski, and Pastor Wayne Matthias-Long.



Keith Bocian (top, center) teaches the Sunday School lesson to students on November 7 behind the building near the playground. Thanks to our faithful and dedicated teaching staff!



[God] has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? – Micah 6:8

Dear Reformation,

Since 2015 Reformation has been a Fair Trade certified congregation. (In fact, we were the first Fair Trade certified congregation in the state of Pennsylvania!) This means that we are committed to our purchases and education to be focused on fair trade items whenever possible. Fair Trade means ensuring that artisans, farmers, and business owners – especially those in developing nations – are compensated equitably for their work. It also often means that the land is used and shipping is done in a way that is mindful of environmental impacts. Several examples of what this has looked like over the past few years at Reformation include coffee, tea, chocolate, and even our Palm Sunday palms!

As we enter this season of gift giving, we lift up this opportunity to seek out fair trade, justice-oriented gifts to better our world. With Media being the country's first fair trade town, there are many opportunities to purchase fair trade items from local businesses. (You can find out more at mediafairtrade.org). And you can learn about the work Lutherans are doing in the field of Fair Trade – especially through Lutheran World Relief – at lwr.org/blog/2015/what-fair-trade.

May you find ways to give the gift of justice this Christmas season!

Pastor Alina Gayeusk

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!

Register for Tuscarora

The Tuscarora Lutheran Youth Retreat, for all youth in grades 6-12, will be held **March 25-27**. Registration materials and payment will be due by Sunday, January 16. More information will be communicated with parents via e-mail. Please speak with Pastor Alina if you have any questions.

Register for Bear Creek Connect Winter Camp


Connect is a fun-filled weekend at Bear Creek Camp during the winter! It's a time to Connect with God and to Connect with your friends. We have a blast doing activities unique to Bear Creek Camp in the winter, plus the friendships and faith-building you've come to expect from a time at camp! The weekends kick off on Friday night and run until Sunday after lunch. Cost for the weekend is \$120/person.

9th—12th Grade Connect: Jan. 7-9, 2022

4th-8th Grade Connect: Jan. 14-16, 2022

Visit bearcreekcamp.org/connect-winter-camp

ECO Tip

 Katharine Hayhoe, author of *Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World*, tells us "Climate solutions are complex and multifaceted. Our response to the challenges climate change poses to our world, our identity, and our way of life are even more so. But the first, crucial step forward is simple... talk about it. Just about every single person in the world already has the values they need to care about a changing climate. They just haven't connected the dots. And that's what we can do through our conversations with them." So start sharing your personal stories and experiences. In many instances they are more likely to move the needle in the direction of action and solutions than reams of data or facts!



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Sunday Worship: 8:30 am Indoor & Online Worship
11:00 am Indoor & Online Worship
Worship services are livestreamed to our virtual church page.

Pastors

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

Return Service Requested

Label

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December 2021

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.

Sunday, December 5
St. Nicholas Celebration

Sunday, December 19
Blessing and Hanging the Greens

Christmas Eve & Day
See schedule on page 1

Sunday, December 26
One Service at 10:00 am