

# REFORMATION TIMES

December 2022

## Advent Devotions on Facebook Live

Join Vicar Eileen throughout the season of Advent for midweek devotion time on Facebook Live! A brief time of prayer, Scripture, and other devotional elements will take place on Wednesday, **December 14** and Wednesday, **December 21** at 7 PM. Contact Vicar Eileen with questions or just drop in!



## Christmas @ Home

Christmas @ Home packets are available starting **December 4!** 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 (or anytime during the twelve days of Christmas!) and are great for all ages! Please see Pastor Alina or Vicar Eileen for more information or if you have any questions.

## Holiday Offering



When you use the special Holiday Offering envelopes (envelopes marked for the holidays such as Christmas) you support Reformation's generosity! All gifts collected in our Holiday Offering Fund

are used for benevolent giving – supporting the work of local organizations and the global church. In 2021, this equaled over \$20,000 in benevolence just from these special offerings throughout the year! Thank you for your commitment to Reformation's generosity!

## 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** – Cozy Christmas worship

### New Year's Day

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

## Cozy Christmas

Join us on Sunday, **December 25**, for a special cozy Christmas worship! This worship will be at 10:00 am and will be **in-person only!** You are invited to wear a cozy Christmas outfit to worship – anything from a favorite Christmas sweater to matching family jammies! Come and get cozy for a special worship of story and song as we celebrate Christmas Day!





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

*1 Corinthians 12:26*

**Congratulations to Our Confirmands!** During a special worship on **October 23**, the following students affirmed the promises made at their baptisms during the Rite of Confirmation:

**Alexandra Benzing, Luke Merino, Riley Owens, Robert Schaub, Katelyn Snyder, Kaylee Troutman**

**Welcome Cindy and Russ Lighton**, along with their children, **Hailey, Lindsay and Del**, who joined Reformation on **November 13**.

**Leslie Brubaker** entered eternal life on **September 2**. A memorial service was held on **November 12** at Reformation.

**John Kemper** entered eternal life on **October 27**. A memorial service was held on **November 7** at Maris Grove.

**Joanne Scott** entered eternal life on **November 10**. A memorial service was held on **November 18** at Reformation.

## Sunday School Dates

All children from birth to grade 6 are invited to join us for Sunday School. Children's Choir is for children age 4 to grade 5. Special Sunday celebrations are for



all children and youth at Reformation. Contact Vicar Eileen with any questions.

Sunday School will be held on:

December 4  
December 11  
December 18  
January 8

Children's Choir schedule:

December 18  
January 22

## Canticles of Christ's Birth

On Sunday, **January 1**, we will have **one worship service at 10:00 am**. January 1 is the date for the festival of the Name of Jesus. During worship that day, we will hear the stories and sing the canticles in Luke's gospel that tell of Christ's birth. Worship will be in-person and live streamed.

## Shopping Can Benefit Reformation



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



**Advent**  
**RETREAT**  
DECEMBER 3, 9 AM - 2 PM

A TIME OF SPIRITUAL EXPLORATION

\$20 SUGGESTED DONATION; COME REGARDLESS OF COST

LUNCH INCLUDED

 **GRACE**  
Lutheran Church

**THE WELLNESS CENTER**  
2191 W. CHESTER PIKE

RSVP: 610-356-1824  
[gracebroomall@gmail.com](mailto:gracebroomall@gmail.com)

## REFORMATION TIMES

*Published Monthly by*

**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

John Grantland, *President*; Debbie Conley, *Vice President*; Laura Reiter, *Secretary*; Tom Conroy, *Treasurer*; Jamie Anderson, Rachel Bingeman, Kristen Chorney, Eric Hathaway, Marian Filtz, Mike Polito, Tyler Troutman and Pastor Alina Gayeuski.

## Upcoming Youth Group Events



- **December 11** – Christmas Party/White Elephant Exchange  
7:00 PM at Reformation
- **January 22** – Disney Virtual Escape Room and Games  
7:00 PM at Reformation
- **February 12** – College Care Kit Making  
12:00 noon – 2:00 pm at Reformation  
Lunch will be provided
- **March 24-26** – Tuscarora Lutheran Youth Retreat  
See additional mailing for more information
- **May 14** – Scavenger Hunt and Dessert  
2:00 – 4:00 pm in Media

## Winter Connect Weekends



CONNECT is a fun-filled weekend at Bear Creek Camp to share with camp friends and returning summer counselors in activities unique to BCC in the winter! The weekends kick off on Friday night and run until Sunday after lunch. Cost for the weekend is \$130/person.

9th - 12th Grade - **January 6th-8th**

4th -8th Grade - **January 13th-15th**

Learn more at <https://bearcreekcamp.org/connect-winter-camp/>.

## Fall Property Clean Up

On Saturday, **December 3** from 9:00 am to 12 noon, we are looking for volunteers to help clean up leaves, fallen branches and do some sprucing up of the Reformation grounds. Please bring rakes and work gloves with you. For more information, contact Paul Stearns.

## Library Book Club



You are invited to join our next book club meeting on **January 17, 2023**, at 7:00 pm. We are turning to mystery and murder with our book selection, ***The Lost Apothecary*** by Sarah Penner. Karen Chorney will

lead our discussion. Our discussion will be by Zoom. Contact Laura Reiter for more information at [longreiter@gmail.com](mailto:longreiter@gmail.com).

About our book selection:

"*The Lost Apothecary* is a poisonously good read... An enthralling work of mystery, murder, trust, and betrayal. Set in an atmospheric London, Penner's immersive story flows skillfully from past to present, revealing the heartaches and lost dreams of three captivating main characters in a page-turningly tense drama that surprises right up until the final paragraph."  
- NPR

A BOOK IS NOT MERE PAPER AND WORDS.  
IT IS A DOOR AND A KEY.  
IT IS A ROAD AND A JOURNEY.  
IT IS A THOUSAND NEW SIGHTS  
SENSATIONS, AND SOUNDS.  
IT HOLDS FRIENDSHIPS  
EXPERIENCES, AND LIFE LESSONS.  
A BOOK IS  
AN ENTIRE WORLD.

## Sandy Hook Memorial Vigil



It has been a decade since 20 children and 6 adults were murdered at Sandy Hook Elementary School. Since then, 15,000 Pennsylvanians have died by gun violence. Survivors and friends will gather at a vigil at Reformation on Wednesday, **December 7** at 7:00 pm to honor the memories of those we've lost and demand an end to the violence.





## Welcome the Lighton Family!

Get to know our newest members, Russ, Cindy, Hailey, Del and Lindsay Lighton.

Russ was born and raised right down the road from Reformation Lutheran Church near Springton Lake and attended Rose Tree Media School District. He attended college at Penn State University where he graduated in 1993 with a BS in Astronomy & Astrophysics and a minor in Computer Science. He currently works as a VP of Quality Engineering at Citibank for the last 12 years. When he's not fixing or building things around the house or for the kids, he enjoys playing video games, watching the Eagles and Flyers, and reading.

Cindy was born and raised in the small steel town of Ambridge near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and attended Penn State University. She graduated in 1991 with a BS in Microbiology, completed a Medical Technologist certification program in 1992, and received her MS in Cell Biology & Biotechnology in 2002. She currently works as an Associate Principal Scientist at Merck & Co for approx. 25 years. Cindy has been an active Girl Scout troop leader for the last 13 years. She is an avid Pittsburgh Steelers and Penguins fan and also enjoys traveling, hiking and camping. She currently has met her goal of hiking 365 miles in one year.

Russ and Cindy met at Penn State due to a computer error that placed them in the same co-ed dorm. They settled in Malvern after Russ graduated from PSU, married and had 3 kids who keep them very busy.

Hailey is the oldest and is a senior at Great Valley High School. She loves art and has been accepted into the Applied Digital Arts program at Kutztown University for Fall 2023 where she plans to major in Game Art and Illustration. Del and Lindsay are twins and are eighth graders at Great Valley Middle School. Del has eclectic interests ranging from mushroom and wild edible foraging, to robotics, Dungeons & Dragons, and video games. Lindsay enjoys drawing and watching anything related to the Marvel universe, Star Wars, and Stranger Things. All three are active in Girl Scouts and enjoy doing service projects, badge work, camping and leading the younger scouts.

Reformation Lutheran Church was recommended to us by a friend, and we felt welcomed and accepted at Reformation from the day we stepped in the door, which made our decision to join an easy one. We also appreciate that Reformation is an affirming congregation for all. We look forward to making Reformation our church home.



The Lighton Family (from left to right): Russ, Lindsay, Cindy, Del and Hailey.

## Advent Gospel Procession by Children



There will be a special opportunity for children to be involved in worship during the season of Advent, beginning on **November 27**. 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.

## Advent Calendars

Advent calendars from ELCA World Hunger are now available at church.

## Hanging of the Greens

Everyone is invited to help decorate the tree and hang wreaths and pine roping on Sunday, **December 18**, immediately following the 11:00 am worship. Join us also for the Unhanging of the Greens on Sunday, **January 1**, after the 10:00 am worship.



## Fostering Hope Delco

Fostering Hope Delco is a volunteer-run organization that serves families and children in foster care in Southeastern PA. They are always in need of volunteers as well as financial support and donations of duffle bags, clothing, and items for care kits. To learn more, go to: <https://fosteringhopepa.com/chapter/delaware-county/> to find links to specific items that they are looking for. Contact Linda Bucher for more information.

## Reformation Facebook Group



Did you know we have a Facebook group in addition to our church page? Scan this QR code to join!



# Interfaith Philadelphia

## Gateway to Religious Communities

Gateway to Religious Communities is a series coordinated by Interfaith Philadelphia where local congregations and religious communities open their doors to the public to share their faith tradition with curious visitors.

At these events you are able to:

- Visit area congregations for worship services
- Meet members from a variety of faith & belief communities
- Ask questions – opportunity for dialogue with community leader and members
- Expand your faith experiences

This winter, we are excited to offer a visit to the Bryn Athyn Cathedral on Sunday, **December 4** from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. For more information and to register, please go to [interfaithphiladelphia.org/events](https://interfaithphiladelphia.org/events).

## The Christmas Story in Art

On **Sunday, December 4**

(In Person at the Philadelphia Museum of Art

2:00 – 3:30 PM) and

**Wednesday, December 7**

(Via Zoom 7:00 – 8:30 PM),

we will see illustrations of the Christmas story from the Annunciation to the Holy Family's flight into Egypt, noting the artistic, cultural, and religious environment in which the artists were working. In a nod to popular culture, the tour will end as we view works of art related to Saint Nicholas and the decoration of Christmas trees. For more information and to register, please go to [interfaithphiladelphia.org/events](https://interfaithphiladelphia.org/events).





# FROM THE VICAR

*"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for she has looked with favor on the lowly state of her servant...God has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. God has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; God has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. God has come to the aid of her child Israel, in remembrance of her mercy, according to the promise she made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." (from Luke 1:46-55, modified from NRSV)*

Greetings, Beloveds!

Mary's song of praise, The Magnificat, is one of the passages we sometimes read during Advent depending on the lectionary cycle. I love this passage because it is full of the radical hope of knowing that our God is firmly rooted on the side of the oppressed, the outcast, the lowly. Mary is so inspired by the coming of Christ that she can't help but sing!

The season of Advent reminds us of this same coming of Christ in the vulnerable form of an infant, showing God's love for and solidarity with all who are vulnerable. This Advent, may we continue to follow God's lead in lifting up the lowly and filling the hungry with good things. Amen.

In Peace,  
Vicar Eileen (she/her)

## 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.

Choose your gift by browsing the website at [ELCA.org/goodgifts](http://ELCA.org/goodgifts) or by checking out the display in the lobby outside the sanctuary.

Make your donation to ELCA Good Gifts.

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](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.)

## Reusable Bags Needed

The Community Action Team can use any reusable grocery bags that you are willing to donate. They will be used for future holiday food bags for our neighbors in need. Please place your extra bags in the collection bin in the lobby. Thank you for your donations!

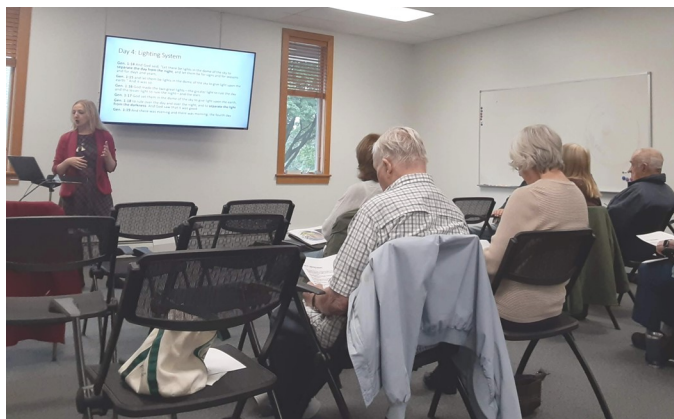




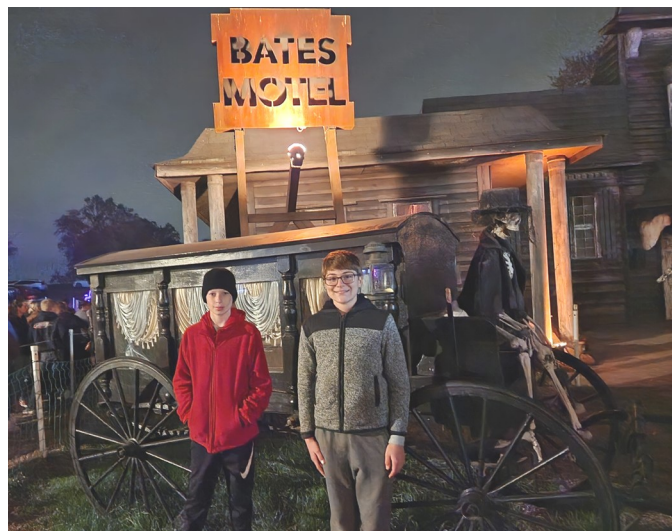


## Seen Around Reformation

It's been a busy few months! Here's what you may have missed.  
Please remember to send your photos of recent events to:  
[newsletter@relcmedia.org](mailto:newsletter@relcmedia.org).



Dr. Crystal Hall delivers her Scholar in Residence Forum.



Members of the youth group at Arasapha Haunted Hayride.



Story time at Sunday School.



Pastor Alina and Vicar Eileen with our Confirmands.



Pastor Alina gets ready for Halloween with her Sermon on the Steps.



Our Confirmands with their mentors.



102 W. Rose Tree Road • Media, PA 19063

relcmedia.org • 610.891.0600

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

*Lead Pastor*  
The Rev. Alina S. Gayeuski  
*Pastoral Assistant*  
Vicar Eileen Ruppel-Doan



**Return Service Requested**

Label

## REFORMATION TIMES

### December 2022

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

**WELCOME:** Called by Christ we invite all people, celebrating the diversity of God's creation. Reformation is an affirming congregation for all: rejoicing with the young and old, welcoming people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, working to cultivate an accessible and inclusive community for all abilities, and embracing all races, cultures, and faith traditions.

We serve our neighbors following the teachings of Christ. Reformation responds to the needs of the most vulnerable - providing nourishment and comfort, supporting the work of the local and global church, and protecting God's creation for future generations.

We build a living faith emboldened by the Holy Spirit. Reformation embodies the unconditional love of God through worshiping and learning together and valuing the gifts of everyone. To create the fullness of our community of faith, we nurture relationships, pursue racial equity and gender justice, and advocate for the wellbeing of the marginalized.

Saturday, December 3  
Fall Property Clean Up

Sunday, December 4  
St. Nicholas Day

Sunday, December 18  
Blessing and Hanging  
of the Greens

Saturday, December 24  
Christmas Eve  
Worship Services at  
2pm, 4pm, 6pm and 8pm

Sunday, December 25  
10am Cozy Christmas Worship  
(In person only)