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# REFORMATION TIMES

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March 2023

## Virtual Visit With Lent Book Author



We will be hosting a virtual conversation with MaryAnn McKibben Dana, author of our Lent book - *Hope: A User's Manual* - on Tuesday, **March 28** at 7:00 pm on Zoom. More details to come!

## Midweek Lent Soup Supper and Evening Worship

On **March 1, 8, 15, 22** and **29** we invite you to gather for a soup supper and fellowship at 6:30 p.m. in Creighton Hall. The soup supper will be followed by Holden Evening Prayer in the sanctuary at 7:30 p.m. You are welcome to join us for both – or come and join us at the start of worship. If you are able to bring soup or bread to the meal, please sign up in the lobby.

## Holy Week @ Home Packets

Holy Week @ Home packets will be available on **March 19**. Packets will include scripture and activities for each day of Holy Week.

## Write a Lenten Devotion

Contribute a devotion that will be emailed to the congregation throughout this Lenten season! A Google form is available at [relcmedia.org/lent](https://relcmedia.org/lent) to share your brief responses to the prompt: "Where is hope alive for you this Lenten season?" Scripture and images may be submitted as well. Contact Pastor Eileen with questions.

## Christ In Our Home Booklets

The April/May/June issue of the *Christ in Our Home* devotional booklets are now available for pick up at the church. If you would like to have one mailed to you, please contact the church office.

## Stations in the Street Prayer Path

The wood chipped path around the Reformation property will once again host *Stations in the Street* – an art exhibit of the stations of the cross by Scott Erikson. You are welcome to visit the path anytime during Lent – through **April 9**. Booklets with information about the art and reflections from the artist are at the entrance of the path (in the corner of the East Parking Lot farthest from the gazebo).

## Easter Egg Hunt



Reformation will host an Easter Egg Hunt for all ages on Palm Sunday, **April 2** from 9:45 - 10:45 am.

## Living Hope - Lent Art Installation

During Lent, an art installation will be in the front of the sanctuary. Featuring our wooden cross, the display will change and grow during the weeks of Lent, depicting our Living Hope and the newness of life through the changing days of Spring.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS  
TIME BEGINS  
**Sunday  
MARCH 12**  
REMEMBER TO  
**SPRING FORWARD!**



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

*1 Corinthians 12:26*

**Madeline James Schreiber**, daughter of Adam and Jordan Schreiber, was baptized on February 5.

## 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 Pastor Eileen with any questions.

Sunday School will be held on:

March 5  
March 12  
March 19 (*Bible Presentations*)  
March 26

Children's Choir schedule:

March 26  
April 9

## Small Stars Update

The Small Stars Sunday School class for children from birth through age 2 is currently on hold until the Spring. The nursery continues to be open for families to use during education hour especially for those who have older children in Sunday School classes. Please reach out to Pastor Eileen with questions, and we hope to see our youngest disciples back soon!

## Reformation Facebook Group



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

## Grief and Loss Group



GRACE  
Lutheran Church

The Wellness Center  
2191 W Chester Pike,  
Broomall  
Enter from Mather Ave



Wednesdays starting March 1, 7-8 pm

No charge; professionally facilitated

For more info:

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

*Grace Lutheran Church is hosting a Grief and Loss Group starting on March 1. Please contact them at 610-356-1824 for more details.*

## SAVE THE DATE!

## Vacation Bible School



This year's Vacation Bible School will be July 10-14, 5:30-7:30 pm. Children Age 3 through completed Grade 5 are invited to join us!

Our theme this year is Knights of North Castle, and you can expect to see dragons and castles and armor, galore! Stay tuned for more info to register or volunteer.

## 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, Pastor Alina Gayeuski and Pastor Eileen Ruppel-Doan.

## Upcoming Youth Group Events



- **March 24-26** – Tuscarora Lutheran Youth Retreat  
See additional mailing for more information.
- **April 30** – Scavenger Hunt  
12:00 noon – 2:00 pm at Reformation

## Young Adults Paint and Sip



The Young Adults group will be gathering on Saturday, **March 4** at 5:00 pm for fellowship with those in their 20s and 30s. We

will meet in the Rock Room at church for a Paint and Sip Night! Bring a drink or snack to share if you are able.

## Easter Food Bags

When the holidays approach, we think of serving our neighbors who are less fortunate.

Reformation will once again provide



nonperishable grocery items and gift cards for our neighbors in need during the Easter Season.

Bags, along with a list of needed items, will be available on Sunday, **March 12**. Please feel free to take a bag (or 2), fill it with the requested items, and return it to Reformation no later than Sunday, **March 26**.

Many of the recipients look forward to these bags, as they are often the difference between a sparse holiday and a joyous one.

Thank you in advance for your help in feeding our neighbors in need.

- The Community Action Ministry



## Bear Creek Camp Sunday

On Sunday, **March 5**, Bear Creek Camp Staff will be with us at Reformation to share upcoming summer plans and lead a special Sunday School program.

## Bear Creek Camp Gala

We're excited for the return of the Bear Creek Camp Campfires & Cocktails Gala! Join us on **April 29, 2023**, for a lively evening of fun and community while supporting camp! The 4th Annual event will be held at Homewood Suites in Center Valley, PA. Come dine, dance, be with friends and family, play games, bid in live and silent auctions, and much more! Learn more at [bearcreekcamp.org/gala](http://bearcreekcamp.org/gala).

BEAR CREEK CAMP GALA



## Summer Camp Registration Is Now Open!



Registration for summer camp is now open. Those who register before **March 31** will receive an exclusive Early Bird T-shirt!

For more details, please go to: [bearcreekcamp.org/summer-camp/](http://bearcreekcamp.org/summer-camp/).

## SAVE THE DATE! May Play Day!



Bear Creek Camp May Play Day is Saturday, May 6, 2023! Join the Bear Creek Camp staff and the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod for an open house day of fun at Bear Creek Camp! Join us to explore camp, meet BCC staff, and fellowship with our camp community. Registration is free and lunch is included. For more information, please go to: [bearcreekcamp.org/mayplayday/](http://bearcreekcamp.org/mayplayday/).



## The Church Staff Thanks You

Thank you, Reformation, for your kindness and generosity. We thank God for the privilege of working in ministry partnership with Reformation and we are very grateful for your generous Christmas gift.



Pastor Alina Hajosli Pastor Eileen Ruppel-Doan  
Valerie A. Foyke Erik Eldon  
Charlie Corwin Lily Haggett  
Andrea Menton

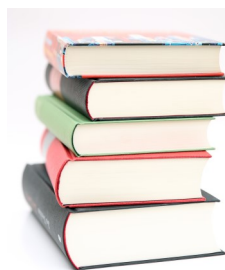
## Sermon on the Steps during Lent

During the season of Lent, the Sermon on the Steps will be in its regular spot in worship – following the gospel reading. Each week we'll share a children's book that connects to worship that day. In addition to coming up to join the preacher for the Sermon on the Steps, the children will also be invited up to join the presiding pastor during the time of the Great Thanksgiving at the beginning of the communion liturgy. The children will be invited to stand around the altar with a pastor throughout the communion liturgy and can return to their seats with their families after the Lord's Prayer.

## Helping Hands Para Support Grants Available

Reformation has recently created the Helping Hands Para Support Fund. Grants are available to offset the cost of paraprofessionals or aids needed for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities to attend our education programs or other Reformation activities. Contact Pastor Eileen with questions or to apply.

## Library Book Club



Calling all Book Lovers! Join us for Reformation Book Club on **April 25** at 7:00 pm via Zoom to discuss our next enticing selection, *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt. Contact Laura Reiter at

longreiter@gmail.com for more information on joining our discussion.

About *Remarkably Bright Creatures* (from Amazon.com):

"*Remarkably Bright Creatures* [is] an ultimately feel-good but deceptively sensitive debut. . . . Memorable and tender." — *Washington Post*

For fans of *A Man Called Ove*, a charming, witty and compulsively readable exploration of friendship, reckoning, and hope that traces a widow's unlikely connection with a giant Pacific octopus

After Tova Sullivan's husband died, she began working the night shift at the Sowell Bay Aquarium, mopping floors and tidying up. Keeping busy has always helped her cope, which she's been doing since her eighteen-year-old son, Erik, mysteriously vanished on a boat in Puget Sound over thirty years ago.

Tova becomes acquainted with curmudgeonly Marcellus, a giant Pacific octopus living at the aquarium. Marcellus knows more than anyone can imagine but wouldn't dream of lifting one of his eight arms for his human captors—until he forms a remarkable friendship with Tova.

Ever the detective, Marcellus deduces what happened the night Tova's son disappeared. And now Marcellus must use every trick his old invertebrate body can muster to unearth the truth for her before it's too late.

Shelby Van Pelt's debut novel is a gentle reminder that sometimes taking a hard look at the past can help uncover a future that once felt impossible.



Dear Reformation,

2023 is already off to an incredible start here with so much to look forward to in the months ahead. One thing I am personally looking forward to is my sabbatical this summer.

Reformation's Human Resource Policy provides for clergy under call at Reformation to take up to three months of sabbatical after serving for 7 years at Reformation. (Believe it or not, I will be marking my 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary under call at Reformation this December!)

I am grateful for this policy, the way it recognizes the complexities of ordained ministry, and provides for this time to reenergize. Clergy are continuously among the professions with the highest rates of turnover – with a large number of people leaving professional ministry permanently every year. Reformation's policy recognizes the work of clergy and supports us in incredible ways. (Thank you, Reformation!)

I am sure you have questions about what this sabbatical means and I am open to conversation at any time! In the meantime, here are some "Frequently Asked Questions" and answers.

### **What is a sabbatical?**

A sabbatical is an intentional time away from a position for rejuvenation. It is not a vacation. A sabbatical has a plan for personal or professional development.

### **When will you be on sabbatical?**

I will start my sabbatical on Memorial Day and end on Labor Day. I intentionally chose summer as it has a lighter programmatic schedule at Reformation.

### **What will you be doing?**

I have several plans for my sabbatical. The first, and biggest, is writing my Doctor of Ministry thesis. I hope to graduate with my degree in May of 2024 and this is the final requirement. I will also be visiting other congregations on the east coast that are similar size and style of Reformation to learn "best practices" to bring back.

### **How can we support Reformation while you're on sabbatical?**

Continue doing what you do! Life and ministry are so full and abundant here at Reformation because of the ways you show up to live out our mission at all times! This summer will undoubtedly be filled with opportunities to learn and serve together. Your participation is just as important now as ever and will help to support the rest of the staff during this time.

We are so fortunate to have Pastor Eileen, with her gifts and abilities, here as she leads our ministry over the summer, but she will only be able to do so much. Continue to pray for her and ask her how you can best support her.

I will miss you all deeply over these summer months. It is a gift and privilege to be one of your pastors and I will miss the ways we share life together during this time. But know that I appreciate, more deeply than I can express, the opportunity to take this time. I know I will come back even more excited for the future we are being called to together.

Blessings!  
Pastor Alina

## Thank You from Pastor Eileen!



Reformation, thank you for a beautiful ordination service! I am grateful for every gift, card, and kind word I have received. It was a joy to be able to celebrate this day with the congregation, friends, colleagues, and family.



## Mark E. Davis Scholarship



The Mark E. Davis Scholarship was established by The Rev. William and Irene Davis, following the death of their son,

Mark. Applications for the 2023-2024 academic year may be obtained by downloading from the church website, a printed copy by contacting the church office, or electronically by contacting Ellen Davis Conroy by email at [DavisScholarship@relcmedia.org](mailto:DavisScholarship@relcmedia.org). All applications and support materials must be received or postmarked by the May 1, 2023 deadline.

Complete details can be found in the January Reformation Times. Any questions can be addressed to the following committee members: Ellen Davis Conroy, Evan Davis, Rebecca Funk, Marilyn Gilroy or Bill Grauer.

## Lenten Care Kits

During Lent, zip lock bags, with a list of personal care items, will be available to fill and return.

These Care Kits will be distributed to:

- men and women at the Phoenix Recovery Houses (personal care items)
- women at the Well, a women's shelter in Philadelphia (personal care items)
- and to children in need, through Cradles to Crayons (socks and underwear)

Bags will be available beginning on Sunday, **February 26**, and should be returned to Reformation by Easter Sunday, **April 9**.

Thank you for your support!

## AmazonSmile Update



Please be advised that Amazon has ended their AmazonSmile program as of **February 20, 2023**.



THANKS TO YOU!

## We Are Tackling Hunger

Once again you fed those who hunger in Delaware County. Thank you for helping us TACKLE HUNGER! The scores are in! 247 food items were collected for Chester Eastside and the Media Food Pantry including:

- 84 boxes of macaroni & cheese
- 75 packages of pasta
- 46 bags of dried beans
- 26 bottles of oil
- 16 jars of honey

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to serving our neighbors!

## Interfaith Book Trail for Elementary School Youth

Become an interfaith traveler! The Interfaith Book Trail is a 3-session program designed to acquaint children with each other's faith traditions. Students will participate in hands-on activities and build a community that celebrates people!

### March 5

2-3:30 pm

Swarthmore Friends Meeting

### March 19

2-3:30 pm

Congregation Beth Israel

### March 26

2-3:30 pm

Swarthmore Presbyterian Church

For more information and to register, please go to: [interfaithphiladelphia.org/book-trail](http://interfaithphiladelphia.org/book-trail) or scan the QR code below:



### April 2

*Palm Sunday*

8:30 am & 11:00 am worship

### April 6

*Maundy Thursday*

7:30 pm worship

### April 7

*Good Friday*

12 noon\* & 7:30 pm worship

### April 8

*Easter Vigil*

7:30 pm worship

### April 9

*Easter Sunday*

8:00 am, 9:30 am and  
11:00 am worship

*\*all services will be live streamed except for the  
12 noon service on Good Friday*

## Council Highlights

In February, the Council meeting included these highlights:

- Received thank you messages from organizations that we contributed Holiday Offering gifts to at the end of 2022.
- Approval of a match from Holiday Offering for the upcoming special offering for Bear Creek Camp Camperships as part of our Bear Creek Camp Sunday celebration on March 5.
- Approval of a match from Holiday Offering for the special offering supporting the work of Lutheran Disaster Response for those impacted by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria.
- Announcement of Ash Wednesday and Lent Service schedules.

## Join Our Worship Team

We are building our worship team schedule for the coming months and could always need more volunteers!



Please contact the office if you are interested in serving as an acolyte, altar care help, communion assistant, crucifer, liturgist, reader, sound board operator, usher or welcome center volunteer. Thank you for being an essential part of worship!

## March ECO Tip



From production, to packaging, to delivery, large furniture pieces like a table or a couch are really an environmental nightmare. When buying furniture or décor, think thrift store, vintage or antique to find some unique treasures while reducing your footprint!

## 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.

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

## Explore the Holy Land!

Pastor Alina and Pastor Dan will be leading a trip to the Holy Land for Reformation and Holy Trinity Lutheran Churches, family, and friends. The trip will be **January 7-17, 2025**. More information will follow, but if you are interested in being part of the trip, contact Pastor Alina to be added to the list!

## Blood Drive Success

We were able to collect 36 pints of blood at the February 4 blood drive, which is phenomenal as we were only expecting 29 units. The blood collected will go on to help save the lives of over 100 local hospital patients! Thank you to Jess Reitano for organizing and to all who donated for making it such a huge success.



## Become A Volunteer Tutor

The Volunteer English Program trains and provides volunteer tutors for immigrants and refugees living in Chester County. They will be hosting a 3-session training workshop via Zoom beginning on **March 21** from 6:00 pm—8:00 pm. There is a \$40 fee for materials. For more information or to register, please visit: [volunteerenglish.org](http://volunteerenglish.org).





## Seen Around Reformation

It has been a busy start to 2023 as you can see in these photos!  
*Please remember to send your photos of recent events to:*  
[newsletter@relcmedia.org](mailto:newsletter@relcmedia.org).



Confirmation students and mentors bless one another with water to remember their baptism.



Pastor Eileen gathers children around the altar for the Sermon on the Steps.



Pastor Alina blesses and dedicates the Mary H. Smith Welcome Center on January 29.



The celebration of Communion during Pastor Eileen's ordination on January 28.



Tom Conroy presenting the Treasurer Report at the Annual Meeting on January 29.



Members and friends enjoying the luncheon following Pastor Eileen's ordination on January 28.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Kindling Faith: ULS Book Club with President Erwin via Zoom**

**March 27** and **April 24** at 7 pm EST via zoom. Dr. Erwin discusses *Flowers of the Killer Moon* and his perspective on Osage culture in this novel based on true events. The film version directed by Martin Scorsese will be released in May of 2023.

**Nolde/Lazareth Lecture**

**March 20** at 7 pm on the Philadelphia campus and Livestream. Dr. Pamela Cooper-White, Dean of Union Theological Seminary, discusses her new book, *The Psychology of Christian Nationalism*.

**Our American Muslim Neighbors: Christian Reflections on Islam**

**March 2, 9, 23, 30** (on Zoom) and **April 1** on the Philadelphia campus with a field trip to a local mosque with Dr. David Grafton of Hartford International University.

**Preaching with Power**

**March 5 - 8** at various locations in Philadelphia and on the ULS YouTube channel. Five sermons and one lecture by six distinguished African American preachers and theologians.

For more information and to register, please visit: [www.unitedlutheranseminary.edu/community/calendar](http://www.unitedlutheranseminary.edu/community/calendar).



UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Anticipating Passover and Holy Week with Art**

This event will take place in person at the Philadelphia Museum of Art (PMA) on Sunday, **March 19** from 2:00 - 3:30 pm.

This year observances of Passover and Holy Week overlap. Both invite believers to remember sacred stories and embrace promises of liberation. Works of art at the PMA will bring the stories to mind and challenge us to a deeper engagement with their meaning for our lives.

**Prayerful Looking: Art to Nourish the Soul**

This event will take place in person at the Philadelphia Museum of Art (PMA) on Sunday, **April 16** from 2:00 - 3:30 pm.

“Visio Divina” (aka “Prayerful Looking”) is a spiritual practice by which we open ourselves to the presence of the Divine. Guided group meditations on works of art will introduce the practice. An opportunity will follow for each of us to seek out a work that sparks awareness of the Spirit’s role in our engagement with important personal issues.

For more information and to register, please go to [interfaithphiladelphia.org/events](http://interfaithphiladelphia.org/events).





[illustratedministry.com](http://illustratedministry.com)





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.

*Pastors*

The Rev. Alina S. Gayeuski  
The Rev. Eileen Ruppel-Doan

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## REFORMATION TIMES

### March 2023

**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.

Sunday, March 5  
Bear Creek Camp Sunday

Sunday, March 12  
Daylight Savings Time Begins

Sunday, March 19  
Bible Presentations

Sunday, March 26  
Tuscarora Youth Retreat

