

---

# REFORMATION TIMES

---

May 2023

## Summer Worship Schedule



Please note that our summer worship schedule begins on Sunday, **May 28** and will continue through Sunday, **September 3**. Summer worship times are 8:30 am and 10:00 am.

## Graduate Info Needed

Information is needed for our students graduating from high school! Please send the following for your graduating senior to [pastoreileen@relcmedia.org](mailto:pastoreileen@relcmedia.org) by **May 21**.

1. Name
2. School they are graduating from
3. Current photo
4. Baby photo

Graduates will be celebrated at both worship services on **June 4**.

## Celebrate Diane Bullen!



Reformation's Stay and Play Director, Diane Bullen, is retiring after 30 years of incredible leadership and commitment to our school.

Save the date for her retirement party on Wednesday, **June 21**, 5:00 – 7:00 pm at Reformation.

Join us in thanking Diane for all her work on behalf of the children and thanking God for her gifts and years of service!

## Welcome Darek Raguza!



As we prepare to kickoff our capital campaign this fall to fund a new roof, pavilion and fellowship area, and memorial garden, we are excited to introduce you to Darek Raguza – our new Capital Campaign Manager!

Darek lives locally in Media and has been involved with development and fundraising for non-profits for over 25 years. We are grateful to have him join our team at Reformation for this campaign and for the skills and experience he brings with him.

Please look for opportunities to meet and welcome Darek and watch for more information about ways to support our upcoming campaign!

## Lenten Care Kit Totals

We collected 81 care kits for the following groups:

- Cradles to Crayons - 27 kits
- Phoenix Recovery Houses - 42 kits
- The Well - 12 kits

Thank you, Reformation, for your generosity!

## 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!



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

*1 Corinthians 12:26*

**Ava Jane Buchanan, Benjamin George Buchanan, Lucy Anne Copeland, Mariella Sophia Foti, Elijah Robert Hazlett and Audrey Pearl LeGrand** received their Bibles during worship on **March 19**.

**Gabrielle Gaskill and David Parker** were joined in marriage on **April 14**.

**Luca Ruppel-Doan**, son of Pastor Eileen Ruppel-Doan and Ethan Doan, was baptized on **April 22**.



## 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:

May 7 (*Caring for Friends Sunday*)

May 14

May 21

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! For more information and to register, please visit:

[www.myvbs.org/relcmedia](http://www.myvbs.org/relcmedia).

## Holiday Offering



Thank you for your generous contributions to our Holiday Offering fund during Lent and Easter! Over \$8,000 was collected. The next Holiday

Offering envelope in your packet is for Pentecost – but you don't have to wait that long! Generic Holiday Offering envelopes are available at the usher's station at the back of the sanctuary and you can always choose to give online and designate it as Holiday Offering.

Did you know that our Holiday Offering envelopes help Reformation live out our generosity every day? All gifts received through any special holiday envelope (such as the Lent or Easter envelopes in your packs) or given online and designated as holiday offering is used completely for benevolence.

This fund enables us to match other special offerings and make our gifts go twice as far and allows our Council to respond quickly to other needs in the community. In 2022, over \$32,000 moved through our Holiday Offering fund and out into the community and the world.

Please remember to use these special envelopes and help our reach go further! Thank you for the ways you continue to live out the generosity of God's love in this world!

## 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.



## RESURRECTION PRACTICES

- 1 Hang a Rainbow Prism
- 2 Plant Vegetables
- 3 Compost Food Scraps
- 4 Make Something New from Your Trash
- 5 Give Flowers to Your Neighbors
- 6 Look for Butterflies
- 7 Read John 21:1-17



The time between Easter and Pentecost is an opportunity to think about Easter not just as one day, but as a whole season. Do one of these activities this Spring and experience the Risen Christ in a new way.



[www.TraciSmith.com](http://www.TraciSmith.com)

## Library Donation Thank You's!



Thanks for the many donations to the Reformation Library over the past few years. There have been so many that we are just now working through the backlog. The Library extends warm donation thank you's to Christine Corson, Carol Stephens, The Irene and Bill Davis Family, Fran Shore, Marilyn Berberich, Joyce McNally and many anonymous donors. Did we miss your name in our thank you's? Send an email to Laura Reiter at [longreiter@gmail.com](mailto:longreiter@gmail.com).

## Sock Collection

Reformation will once again be partnering with Alpha Delta Kappa to collect socks for the "Joy of Sox," an organization founded 11 years ago to collect socks for people



living in homelessness. Socks are the least donated item, and clean, dry socks are essential for people experiencing homelessness. Socks are needed for men, women, and children, and crew socks in acrylic and polyester blends are preferred.

Please bring socks to Reformation between **May 1** and **May 14**, and place them on the tables in the hallway. Thank you for helping those in need!

## May Eco Tip



Honey bees forage during daylight hours when the temperatures are above 55-60°F. As the sun begins to set, they return to their hives for the evening. Thus, spraying

pesticides in the evening hours can greatly reduce honey bee mortality because the bees are not in the fields.





## Lisa Murphy and Family



*Lisa Murphy*

The Murphy family is grateful to be a part of the Reformation community. We were first introduced to Reformation by my children attending Vacation Bible School. Later, the need for us to be a part of a welcoming community that supports and nurtures their

attendees in their spiritual journey.

We reside in Newtown Square and are part of the Marple-Newtown School system. We also attend St. Anastasia's Catholic Church, where my children, Emilia and Stephen, received Confirmation.

We look forward to being involved in such a giving community and doing our part to help the community's strength.

## The Sena and Urban Family

Joe Sena was born and raised in the Bronx, NY. He graduated from Harvard University with an A.B. in Sociology in 1999 and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Law School with his Juris Doctorate in 2004. Currently, he is Senior Counsel on Johnson & Johnson's Regulatory Law & Privacy team. Outside of work, Joe supports our public parks as Chairperson of Upper Providence's Parks & Recreation Board and as a member of DelCo's Park Advisory Committee and plays tennis.

Chris Urban was born and raised in Ashland, PA. He graduated from Lehigh University with a finance degree in 1995 and graduated from Villanova University Law School with his Juris

Doctorate in 1998. Chris received his Advanced Trial Advocacy LLM from Temple's Beasley School of Law. Chris practiced as a defense attorney at various law firms in Philadelphia for over a decade before transitioning to the finance industry. Currently, he works on the Compliance team of Flagship Credit Acceptance. Chris held a small craft pilot's license, enjoys scuba diving, and travel.

Joe and Chris met back in 2004 in Philadelphia, when Joe was about to graduate Law School and Chris was practicing law. They've lived together in New York City, but settled down in Media, PA with their golden retriever Marshmallow in 2013. A few years later, they adopted Quinn Sioux.

Quinn is now in kindergarten and is looking forward to starting elementary school in the Fall. Quinn loves and excels at sports. She plays organized soccer, tee-ball, gymnastics, swimming, and karate. Quinn also enjoys the Arts, particularly painting, learning the piano and was recently a pint-sized player in Hedgerow Theatre's "The Descendants" musical. She's also a Daisy in the Girl Scouts.

The Sena and Urban family faced obstacles in finding a faith community accepting of their family. On the recommendation of Joe's cousin, the family came to Reformation seeking to learn more. They felt very welcomed and accepted right from that initial visit and have enjoyed their participation in Reformation's community these past two years. Quinn joined the Sunday School program and Joe and Chris helped teach. The family has enjoyed being able to meet many members by participating in various service and donation opportunities, the Interfaith Book Trail, VBS, the annual trunk or treat and Bear Creek's Family Camp. The Sena and Urban family is looking forward to making its membership "official" and continuing to build a living faith within the Reformation family.



*From left to right: Marshmallow, Quinn, Joe and Chris.*



## Kendyll Ward (she/her)



Hello Reformation! My name is Kendyll Ward and I am a current freshman at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pa.

I am a double major in Psychology and French. I am from Havertown, Pa which is not too far from

Media and I am a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Havertown.

Some of my church involvements have included serving on the ELCA Youth Core Leadership, being a youth representative on the SEPA Synod Council, and creating the theme for the 2024 National Youth Gathering.

I am very excited to see what God has in store for me here and can't wait to meet you all this summer!

## Max Bright (they/them)



Hello! My name is Max, and my pronouns are they/them. You will see me around as Reformation Lutheran Church's Summer Intern.

I am a queer artist, proficient in digital art such as 2D animation

and illustration. I am a senior at Kutztown University and will graduate early in December 2023 with my BA in animated arts. Feel free to say hello!

## Get Involved with Community Action

Help us serve our neighbors! Volunteers are needed to join our community action team in various service opportunities throughout the year. Community Action is responsible for things like our Holiday Food Bags, Lent Care Kits, Souper Bowl, St. Nick drive, and more! Participation in community action can be as little as once a year or as often as monthly; the needs of our neighbors never stop! For more information or to get involved, contact Linda Bucher at [lindabucher1@verizon.net](mailto:lindabucher1@verizon.net) or Pastor Eileen.

## 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.

## 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: [fosteringhopepa.com/chapter/delaware-county/](http://fosteringhopepa.com/chapter/delaware-county/) to find links to specific items that they are looking for. Contact Linda Bucher for more information.

## ECO Movie Night



Come join us for Pot Luck Desserts and the movie *Kiss the Ground* on Friday, **May 19** at 7pm in Creighton Hall.

## Thrivent Choice Dollars

**thrivent**

Do you have products through Thrivent?

Some of their financial

products come with the benefit of Choice Dollars that can be directed to the nonprofit of your choice! These funds need to be designated annually to that nonprofit. Reformation is eligible to receive these choice dollars. This money is used for special projects at the church. Please remember to make your Choice Dollar elections and connect with your Thrivent Representative if you have any questions!

## Volunteer Opportunities



### Office Help:

Do you have some time to spare during our office hours (M-Th, 9 am-3:30 pm)? If so, please contact Andrea to get added to our Office Volunteer list. We can always use extra help with “stuffing the bulletins” (weekly), preparing our newsletters for mailing (monthly) and prepping various congregation mailings and packets (as needed).

### Worship Team:

We are building our worship team schedule for the coming months and invite you to serve! 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!

## Council Highlights

In April the Council meeting included these highlights:

- Approval of funds from the Endowment Capital account for facilities improvements: new carpet in the Women’s Connection Room and Choir Room/Music Office, paint in the Women’s Connection Room and Choir Room/Music Office, and seal coating and line painting for the front, back and west parking lots.
- Approval of new members: Chris Urban and Joe Sena and their daughter Quinn.
- Approval of Synod Assembly Voting Members: John Grantland and Debbie Conley.
- Approval of donation from Holiday Offering to the Delaware County Backpack Collection coordinated through the Lutheran Conference of Churches in the county. (Boxes to donate school supplies for the backpacks will be available at the church in July!)
- Announcements of gate replacement work being done behind the church (schools), baptism of Luca Ruppel-Doan on April 22, and the installation of Council members during worship on June 4.

## 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.

## Reformation Facebook Group



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





*God be with you till we meet again; by good counsels guide, uphold you, with a shepherd's care enfold you; God be with you till we meet again.*

*- God Be with You Till We Meet Again, ELW Hymn #536*

When I was growing up, my home congregation ended every worship service by singing the first verse of this hymn. It was immediately after the sending hymn ended and before anyone even thought to move from their pew. As kids we called it "the goodbye song."

But the message of the song is not goodbye. It is a beautiful blessing from each person to another and a hope to be together again soon. The lyrics are words that celebrate God's constant guidance and presence in our lives and the pull we feel to come back together. It is a way we give thanks for our separate journeys that lead us together again.

These are the words that are in my mind now as I prepare to take my sabbatical. It is not a goodbye but a see you later moment. It is a time when these words of my childhood continue to play in my heart as I get ready to take a brief step back from my work here but as I continue to pray for you all through these weeks ahead.

I remain, as always, grateful for this place and all of you as we share in this ministry together. And I look forward to coming back this fall, excited and renewed for where God continues to call us!

Until then, God be with you till we meet again,

Pastor Alina Gayeusi

*P.S. See my full message in the March newsletter for all the details and frequently asked questions about my sabbatical. I will be starting my sabbatical on Memorial Day and will return the Tuesday after Labor Day.*



## Summer Camp Registration Is Now Open!



Registration for summer camp is now open. 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/).

## Ascension Day Worship

The Delaware Conference of Lutheran Churches will host their annual Ascension Day worship on **Thursday, May 18**, at 7:00 pm at St. Timothy's (535 Lamp Post Lane, Aston, PA 19014). Pastor Bryan Penman will be the guest preacher. All are invited to this festival worship.

## Thank You from Joanne Reiss



Thank you for recognizing my 90th birthday. Thank you for the many cards and to the Connection Group (Hope) for the party and gifts. You have captured my heart. You are an inspiration to many. May God Bless You,  
Joanne Reiss

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

### Summer Programs

*Theological Education with Adults: The Challenges of Ministry in Such a Time as This*, July 23-28 on the Gettysburg Campus. Rev. Dr. Emlyn Ott from Healthy Congregations walks us through the challenges of being the church in a post-Covid world.

*Theological Education with Youth*, July 23-28. The TEY one-week summer Academy is for high school students to live in an intentional Christian community on the Gettysburg campus of United Lutheran Seminary. Dr. Teresa Smallwood challenges participants to live out Jesus' call to justice.

For more information and to register for any of these programs, please go to:  
[unitedlutheranseminary.edu/community/calendar](http://unitedlutheranseminary.edu/community/calendar).

### ULS Guest Preacher



The Rev. Dr. Martin Otto-Zimmann, Senior Director of Continuing Education at United Lutheran Seminary, will be at Reformation on Sunday, **May 21**. He will preach and thank Reformation for our continued support as

a Partner Congregation of United Lutheran Seminary.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

### Art of Interfaith Understanding: Prophets of Hope: The Art Tour

This event will take place in person at the Philadelphia Museum of Art (PMA) on Sunday, **June 25** from 2:00 - 3:30 pm.

In the midst of unrelenting conflicts in the world and the challenges of daily living, join us to see and discuss art that inspires hope.

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



### Finance Smart

*By Christine Corson*

Scammers are always lurking around you and doing their best to catch you off guard. Be very careful with every email and text you receive, even if it's from someone you know.

Cyber thieves are extremely crafty at disguising themselves to be someone you trust. Always be on guard and suspicious of anyone asking you for money or gift cards.

If you're not sure if an email or text is legitimate, ask someone you know to take a look at the message for you, and you will be...

**Finance Smart!!!**



## How to Access the Reformation Church Directory

If it's been awhile since you accessed our church directory, here is a refresher on how to do so - either by using the app or your favorite web browser:

### **From your smartphone or tablet:**

1. Download the app "Instant Church Directory" from the App Store, Google Play or Kindle Fire
2. Open the app and enter your email address as it is listed in the directory.
3. Check your email for the code.
4. Enter the code into the app.
5. Enjoy access to the online directory.

### **From your computer:**

1. Go to: [members.instantchurchdirectory.com](http://members.instantchurchdirectory.com).
2. Click "Church Member Login."
3. Find "First Time Signing In?" and click "Create a Login Now."
4. Enter your email address and create a password.
5. Verify your email address by clicking the link in your email account.
6. Sign in with your email and new password.

If you are unable to login or have any questions, please contact Andrea at [rlc@relcmedia.org](mailto:rlc@relcmedia.org).



## Upcoming Community Events

### Reducing Gun Violence Through Red Flag Laws & Universal Background Checks

This event is open to the community and will focus on gun safety legislation in Pennsylvania.

Wednesday May 17th  
7:00-8:30 PM  
Congregation Ohev Shalom  
2 Chester Road (intersection of Providence Rd & 252)  
Wallingford, PA 19086

#### Presenters:

Rep. Jennifer M. O'Mara, 165th District, Delaware County  
Rep. Carol Kazeem, 159th District, Delaware County  
Jack Stollsteimer, Delaware County District Attorney  
Chief David Splain, Nether Providence Police Department

Scan to register today!



Please register by May 12th at [www.ohcv.net](http://www.ohcv.net)  
Only attendees who are registered will be admitted. Parking is available at the rear of the building. Please enter through the backdoor only.



*You must register by May 12 at [ohcv.net](http://ohcv.net) (or by scanning the QR code above) to attend this event at Congregation Ohev Shalom in Wallingford.*

*If you are interested in singing at this concert at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, or would like more information, please contact Reid Simmons at [holytrinity927music@gmail.com](mailto:holytrinity927music@gmail.com).*





## Seen Around Reformation

There is always so much to see at Reformation. We thank you for sharing your photos with us! *Please remember to send your photos of recent events to: [newsletter@relcmedia.org](mailto:newsletter@relcmedia.org).*



Joan Selby teaching about the "sight theme" to our Pre-K through 1st grade Sunday School students on March 19.



Pastor Alina, Laura Reiter, Marian Filtz, Debbie Conley, and John Grantland present Pastor Ben Hogue with the check for the earthquake relief in Turkey and Syria on March 26.



Joan teaches this group about the Pool of Siloam on March 19.



Rhys Caruso has a great time at Reformation's Easter Egg hunt on April 2!



Guest preacher Pastor Ben Hogue reads the week's story book during Sermon on the Steps on March 26.



Edna Bogert and Sandy Coll on their way to deliver Easter Food Bags on April 3.



© 2020 Illustrated Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved. [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



**Return Service Requested**

Label

## REFORMATION TIMES

**May 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, May 7

Caring for Friends Sunday

Sunday, May 14

Mother's Day  
Rogation Sunday

Sunday, May 21

Ascension Sunday

Sunday, May 28

Pentecost Sunday  
Summer Worship  
Schedule Begins!