REFORMATION TIMES

September 2023



God's Work, Our Hands

This year for God's Work Our Hands Sunday, the Community Action Team invites you to get involved with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services! LIRS "is the largest faithbased nonprofit dedicated to serving vulnerable immigrants, asylum seekers and refugees in the U.S."

On **September 17**, we will be participating in LIRS' "A Fresh Change" Program. Reformation will be providing drawstring bags along with instructions to fill them up with new adult clothing for immigrants and refugees arriving in the U.S. or being released from detention centers. The bags will be due back to be blessed during worship on **October 8**. Also on October 8, we will hear from this year's Reinhard Scholar, Cassandra, about her work with LIRS!

For more information or to get further involved, visit LIRS.org.

SAVE THE DATE!

ELCA Youth Gathering Meeting



Mark your calendars for Sunday, **September 17** at 9:45 am in the ROCK Room for an informational meeting regarding the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering.

Meet Vicar Paula!

One of four siblings, I grew up in Delaware County and trained as a Civil Engineer with a focus in sustainable community development. I've worked in private industry, academia



and government for 30 years. After joining the US Peace Corps as a young woman, I became fascinated with interfaith community building and was active in several churches in the Philadelphia region and with Interfaith Philadelphia. Most recently, I felt a call to combine my active church life with my vocation and am currently completing seminary studies at United Lutheran Seminary in Philadelphia in the hopes of becoming a Deacon in the ELCA. I am married with one daughter and have a cute Cockapoo named Skittles. Our family enjoys travel, entertaining friends and neighbors, nature, museums, music, art...you name it. What we love most of all is a good joke. Got any??





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

1 Corinthians 12:26

Welcome **Morgan Johnson** and her son, **Ethan**, who joined Reformation on **July 30**.

Eve Melrose Bridge, daughter of Jane Bridge, was baptized on August 6.

David McCarrick and **Brian Wilson** were joined in marriage on **August 12**.

Hunter Michael Wayne, son of Eric and Sara Jo Wayne, was baptized on August 13.

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:

September 10

September 17

September 24

October 1

Small Stars will be held on:

October 1

November 5

Children's Choir schedule:

October 1

October 15

November 5

Wellness Fair



Grace Lutheran Church is hosting a Wellness Fair on Saturday, **September 9**. Please contact them at 610-356-1824 or gracebroomall@gmail.com for more details.

Blood Drive



Reformation will be hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on Saturday, **September 23** from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please go to redcrossblood.org.

REFORMATION TIMES

Published Monthly by

Reformation Lutheran Church

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

Congregation Council and Officers
John Grantland, *President*; Debbie Conley, *Vice President*; Laura Reiter, *Secretary*; Marian Filtz, *Treasurer*, Jamie Anderson, Madison Benzing, Kristen Forster, Eric Hathaway, Gabby Parker, Kaylee Troutman, Pastor Alina Gayeuski and Pastor Eileen Ruppel-Doan.

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month



988 is the new 24/7 nationwide call and text line for mental health, substance use, and suicidal crises. If you or someone you know is in a mental health crisis, text or call 988 or go to 988lifeline.org.



Upcoming Youth Events

- September 10 Breakfast Club
- September 17 Youth Gathering Info Meeting
- September 29-30 Youth Group Lock In Friday 7:00 pm—Saturday 9:00 am
- October 1 Breakfast Club
- October 29 Youth Group 12:00 pm—1:30 pm
- October 30 Youth Gathering Registration Due
- November 5 Breakfast Club
- November 12 Youth Group 12:00 pm—1:30 pm

Chancel Choir Update



Our Chancel Choir will resume rehearsals on Thursday,

August 31 at 7:00 pm in the Choir Room. All are welcome; no auditions required. Valerie would be especially thankful for

any tenor, baritone or bass voices wishing to join. The choir will sing during worship beginning on **September 10.** Please reach out to Valerie Rozek for more details.

SAVE THE DATE!

You're Invited: In God's Image



On Saturday, **October**7, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm, at Upper Dublin
Lutheran Church,
Southeastern
Pennsylvania Synod will be hosting the 5th annual *In God's*

Image: Shaping your Ministry to be Inclusive and Safe for LGBTQIA+ Folk. Pastor Noah Hepler, a pastor in SEPA and from Queer Eye Season 5, will be the keynote speaker!

Please contact a pastor to sign up. Reformation will cover the cost of registration for all members who wish to attend.

Memorial to the Lost— Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are needed on Saturday, **September 9** at 9:30 am at Reformation to assist in setting up The *Memorial to The Lost* outdoor t-shirt display sponsored by Heeding God's Call and Reformation. Volunteers will also be needed on Friday, **September 22**, to take it down. To learn more, contact Pastor Eileen.

One World Concert

On Sunday, **September 17** at 4:00 pm, Reformation will host German singer, Sieglinde Schneider. All are welcome!

Eco Tip for September

Tasty and Eco-Friendly Fall Foods
Fall is the season for pumpkins,
apples, butternut squash, and so
many other delicious foods—which makes it the
perfect time to try out new recipes. Using locally
grown, seasonal, and plant-based ingredients
can make your delicious meals more
environmentally friendly. Try:

- Butternut Squash Ravioli
- Coconut Curry Pumpkin Soup
- Rustic Fall Vegetable Soup
- Brown Sugar and Cinnamon Mashed Sweet Potatoes.

Just to name a few!



Finance Smart

by Christine Corson

September is a time for renewal and an opportunity to

reset after a hopefully relaxing summer! It's time to get organized and try to make improvements in all areas of our lives. Your finances would be a great starting point! The following tips will help you "tidy up".

Begin sorting through your junk mail and filing important paperwork. Shred outdated documents. Get a jump on your bills that are due and if you're able, pay off any outstanding debt. Start gathering what you will need for your upcoming tax preparation for 2023. Sign up for paperless billing and auto payments where you can. Cancel any subscriptions you're not using and unsubscribe to emails or texts you don't need. Choose online recurring donations instead of a paper check to reduce waste. Finally, double check to make sure your contributions to Reformation match your pledge. If you have any questions in regards to your giving, contact our Financial Secretary, Suzanne Clain, by emailing rlc@relcmedia.org or calling the church office.

Remember...Staying financially organized declutters the mind. You will be more focused and ready to face any financial challenge that may come your way, which makes you... Finance Smart!

Reinhard Scholarship

On **October 8**, the Reinhard Scholarship for seminary students will be awarded to a current student at United Lutheran Seminary. Seminarian Cassandra Singh-Hueter will be at Reformation and will participate in leading worship.

The Reinhard Scholarship was established in 2001 in memory of Chester and Helen Reinhard by their daughter, and Reformation member, Helen Beck. This annual scholarship is awarded to seminary students.

Life Center Update

The meal program serving the Life Center of Eastern Delaware County at 63rd and Market St in Upper Darby continues to operate at reduced capacity. Reformation has provided meals five times a year on the 4th Thursday of January, March, May, July



and September. In pre covid years we served approximately 120 meals each time. For the past two years we have provided meals for the 32 residents of that facility.

Recently another shelter (Breaking Bread) has been established nearby on Long Lane in Upper Darby. They currently have a capacity of 17 and have welcomed our offers of help on our past few meal efforts in May and July.

In addition to your generous contributions of food, we routinely get help from local bakeries Jacquette's in Marple, Weinrich's in Newtown Square and fruit from Gentiles Market. Giant and Acme food stores sometimes provide gift cards for food purchases. Reformation has often been complimented for our outstanding generosity. We are among the best of the best!

There are no longer enough serving groups in the Delco area to feed our neighbors every day of the entire year so Reformation's commitment is appreciated more than ever. We hope to continue this mission into 2024 and beyond.

Our next date is September 28. Please watch for the sign up sheet and casserole pans on the counter in the front lobby in early September.

For more info about this meal program and to offer your assistance, please contact Dave Smith by email yanky68@comcast.net or call 610-719-7190.

Rally Day

Rally Day is Sunday, September 10. Our



regular worship schedule resumes that morning with worship at 8:30 and 11:00 am. Please plan to join us as we start another great year of life here at Reformation!

Blessing of the Backpacks

Bring your backpacks to worship on Sunday,

September 10, for a special blessing as we celebrate the start of another school year and



God's blessings in our lives every day!

Underwear Collection

Once again Reformation is working with the National Giving Alliance (NGA) to collect NEW underwear and socks. NGA is a grassroots charity dedicated to providing NEW toiletries, linens, and clothing (that's TLC) for new tomorrows. We serve 11 agencies in Delaware and Chester Counties. Remember, the needy come in all sizes, shapes, ages, and genders from the newest baby at the pregnancy center to the oldest resident at Fair Acres. (Last year, Reformation provided 403 much needed items.) We will be collecting underwear through **September 17.** For further information, please contact Sally Burkam, 610-566-8737.

Reformation Connect!

Interested in learning more about Reformation and exploring what membership means? Join us for a session on Sunday, September 24, at 9:45 am in Creighton Hall. This time will explore the ministry opportunities at Reformation and discuss what it means to join Reformation. Contact Pastor Alina or Pastor Eileen with any questions or to RSVP.

Reformation Facebook Group



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

Blessing of the Animals

You and your pet are invited to a Blessing of the Animals service on Sunday, October 8 at



1:00 pm. The service will be held around the back of the church building. If your pet is unable to attend the service, please feel free to bring a photo of them.

You are also invited to bring along a donation for the

Providence Animal Shelter. These are some of the items currently on their wish list:

- Canned cat & kitten food (nonprescription, please)
- *Clean* towels and sheets of all sizes (flat sheets preferred; pillow cases also needed)
- Canned dog food (gravy/stew-based preferred, nonprescription preferred)
- Brown paper bags lunch-sized
- Sandwich-sized Ziploc bags
- Newspaper
- Lysol or disinfectant wipes and spray

For the complete list, please go to: providenceac.org/support-us/wishlist.

Grief and Loss Group



Grace Lutheran Church hosts a Grief and Loss Group every Wednesday evening. Please contact them at 610-356-1824 or gracebroomall@gmail.com for more details.



I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. – John 10:10b

The fall is upon us and so is the kickoff of our Life Abundant Capital Campaign at Reformation! This year we are thinking all about how abundant our life is as a congregation and a community, and how we can continue this abundance for years to come. Through this campaign, we will be able to replace our roof, which we saw was much needed as it rained into the sanctuary over the summer! We will also be building a pavilion and a reflection garden on our property, to provide opportunities for greater fellowship, worship, and remembrance. Be sure to take a look at the plans and other related information in the September newsletter to get a sense of where these projects will be located and how they will grow our abundant future at Reformation. And as we head into this season, we thank you for your abundant generosity and support of our mission -- we couldn't do this without you!

In Peace,

Pastor Eileen (she/her)

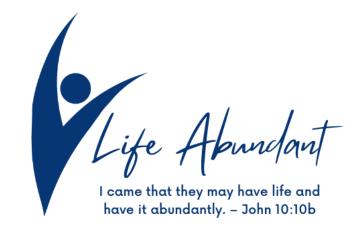


Capital Campaign Preview Event

Join us on Sunday, **September 10**, at 4:00 pm at Reformation for a Capital Campaign Preview event! This will be an opportunity to hear about the plans



for our capital campaign and enjoy fellowship, hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and special music by Liz Hazlett and Valerie Rozek! Please RSVP by **September 1** by emailing rlc@relcmedia.org.



2023-24 PROGRAM YEAR THEME **Life Abundant**

Jesus' words promising abundant life echoes through the mission and ministry of Reformation. There is no place where we look that we do not recognize this truth and the opportunities for where God is calling us next.

We live life abundant in our faith. This promise from Jesus is not for material goods but rather the reality of God's love that has no end and knows no bounds. The community that gathers at Reformation and those in the community that know of the mission of the congregation continue to witness to the abundance of God's love.

We live life abundant at Reformation. From our worship and fellowship to our school programs to our community groups, this building is constantly alive with activity and purpose. There is always a place for everyone and ways to grow in relationship with our neighbors.

We live life abundant in the world. The commitment to serving and generosity extends far beyond the walls of this congregation. We celebrate the abundance of blessings given to us and the ways we can use them in service to God and neighbor.

As we journey through this year together, we invite you to look for where you see life abundant, where the promises of God's love are made real for you, and the ways in which we are called to move together into the places God is calling to together.



Capital Campaign FAQ's



Proposed landscape plans with Pavilion and Reflection Garden.

Why are we having a Capital Campaign?

As with all things related to maintaining a physical property, the time has come when we need to replace our roof. The presence of leaks in the sanctuary, including directly above the altar, has shown us that there is no time like the present. Additionally, there are still two major projects in our master landscaping plan – the pavilion and reflection garden – that we are hoping to complete in the near future. This campaign gives us the opportunity to work on these three goals at the same time.

When will these projects be completed?

Our goal is to have all of the work complete by 2025 – just in time to celebrate Reformation's 75th anniversary! The projects will happen in various stages, based on the receipt of gifts and contractor availability. Of course, the roof work remains a priority as we want to ensure there is no damage to the building due to any delay in completing that work. We will continue to update the congregation on progress as contractors are scheduled and the work is underway.

What options will I have for giving?

In addition to gifts of cash, giving can be done through gifts of stocks, bonds, mutual funds, property, and other assets. Pledges can be fulfilled over a three-year period. All gifts are tax deductible. If you want to discuss making a gift of appreciated assets, please contact Financial Secretary Suzanne Clain – financialsecretary@relcmedia.org.

How big will the pavilion be? What type of events will be able to be there?

The pavilion will be 28'x48' – large enough for about 75 people to sit comfortably in the space. There will be benches that convert to picnic tables for either rows of seating or table seating. Our congregational life events – such as worship, fellowship gatherings, education programs – will always have access to the space. The Reformation Schools are looking forward to using it for special events such as graduation and space for kids to enjoy the outdoors together. Community groups and private events will also be welcome based on availability of the space.

Women's Connection



All women are warmly invited to join us on Sundays starting on September 10. During our time together, we share devotions and/or

readings and discuss how our faith sustains and inspires us in the journeys of our lives. We meet in the choir room during Sunday School time. This adult education option is uniquely for women. If it sounds like a fit for you, please join us!

Bear Creek Camp Women's Retreat



From Friday, September 29 to Sunday, October 1, surround yourself with the beauty of nature and fellowship for an uplifting time at Bear Creek Camp. This retreat is designed to provide women with an opportunity to enjoy time both individually and collectively, participate in creative activities, explore outdoors, have time for rest and renewal, and be in the beauty of God's creation in a peaceful setting. Call 570.472.3741 or go to bearcreekcamp.campbrainregistration.com to register.

THANK YOU!

Successful Summer for the **Property Team**

Thanks to our dedicated Property Team, nearly 50 maintenance tasks were completed this summer in and around the church building. We are grateful for the faithful work of Ron Fender, Bill Grauer, Dave Smith and the entire **Property Team!**

Dress Sewing Returns

We will begin sewing dresses for Little Dresses for Africa starting Tuesday, October 10 at 10:00 am in the ROCK Room. Come and join us! Please contact Joyce McNally for more details.



Morgan and Ethan Johnson

My name is Morgan, and pictured with me is my son Ethan. We are the Johnson family. I am 26 years old and I'm turning 27 years old in August. Ethan is 6 years old and he will be 7 next May. We are from Folcroft, PA. I work for SEPTA. Ethan is an only child



that loves making friends and being a part of positive activities. We are so grateful to be accepted here at Reformation Lutheran Church!

Breakfast Club for High School Students!



YOU are welcome here!

Adolescents in grades 9-12 are invited to join Breakfast Club for some

yummy food, fun and a few life lessons along the way. We will be gathering together on Rally Day in the Community Room and then the first Sunday of each month after that. Learn more and register using this QR code:



SAVE THE DATE!

Electronics Recycling



Reformation is hosting a PAR Recycle Works electronics recycling event on October 21. Be sure to mark your calendar!



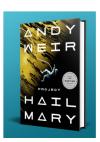
In August the Council meeting included these highlights:

- Appointment of Reformation School Board Members
- Approved new members: Morgan Johnson, Ethan Johnson and David Parker
- Approval of funding request for Heeding God's Call, to accompany the Memorial to the Lost T-shirt display in September

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!

Library Book Club



Great fiction can take you to some amazing places including outer space on a mission to save the Earth! Join us for the Fall Church Library book club discussion of *Project Hail Mary* by Andy Weir on **October 17** at 7:00pm via Zoom. Contact Laura

Reiter for more details at longreiter@gmail.com.

From Amazon:

HUGO AWARD FINALIST • ONE OF THE YEAR'S BEST BOOKS: Bill Gates, GatesNotes, New York Public Library, *Parade*,

Newsweek, Polygon, Shelf Awareness, She Reads, Kirkus Reviews, Library Journal • "An epic story of redemption, discovery and cool speculative sci-fi."—USA Today

"If you loved *The Martian*, you'll go crazy for Weir's latest."—*The Washington Post*

Ryland Grace is the sole survivor on a desperate, last-chance mission—and if he fails, humanity and the earth itself will perish.

Except that right now, he doesn't know that. He can't even remember his own name, let alone the nature of his assignment or how to complete it.

All he knows is that he's been asleep for a very, very long time. And he's just been awakened to find himself millions of miles from home, with nothing but two corpses for company.

His crewmates dead, his memories fuzzily returning, Ryland realizes that an impossible task now confronts him. Hurtling through space on this tiny ship, it's up to him to puzzle out an impossible scientific mystery—and conquer an extinction-level threat to our species.

And with the clock ticking down and the nearest human being light-years away, he's got to do it all alone.

Or does he?

An irresistible interstellar adventure as only Andy Weir could deliver, *Project Hail Mary* is a tale of discovery, speculation, and survival to rival *The Martian*—while taking us to places it never dreamed of going.



Once again this fall you can be part of a CONNECTION GROUP – a great way to renew your connection with others at Reformation. All groups will begin meeting the week of **October 3** and will meet for 7 sessions unless otherwise noted. Sign up online at relcmedia.org/connectiongroups. All groups are limited to 20 registrations unless otherwise noted. Registration will close on **September 27**. Group leaders will contact group members with specific information after registration closes.

CG 1 – Warning and Hope: A Study of Malachi

Led by Donna Thompson

Mondays, 7:00 PM at Reformation

Join us for a study of the Book of Malachi and what we can learn from it for our own lives today.

CG 2 – Pathways to Meaning: Exploring the Intersections of Faith and Mental Health

Tuesdays, 6:30-7:45 PM at Grace Lutheran Church, Broomall Led by Rev. Dr. Beth Toler, M.Div., Th.D., LMFT

In the last 25 years, the relationship between religion/spirituality/faith and mental health has received tremendous attention from researchers and medical/mental health practitioners. This growing body of work not only validates that religion, spirituality, and faith are an important part of the human experience; it also has revealed significant correlations and implications for physical and mental health and well-being. This series of meetings will highlight areas where our faith and mental/emotional health intersect, provide some psychoeducation, and explore ways in which our faith can be a resource for healing and connection.

CG 3 – Introduction to Contemplative Prayer

Led by Vicar Paula Estornell
Sundays, October 8 - 29 at Reformation
12:00-2:00 first Sunday |12:00-1:00 following
Sundays

Introduction to 4 contemplative practices – sound and silence, movement, chant, interior discovery – that use mind, body and heart to open ourselves to a deeper sense of the Divine. A simple lunch will be provided.

CG 4 – Dining Around

Led by Uli Neubert and Edna Bogert
Thursday evenings, Various Locations

Join us for fellowship and meals as we dine around! We will pick a different restaurant each week to enjoy good food and good company.

CG 5 – The Delaware Art Museum: Inspiration and Aspiration-30 Minutes Away!

Led by Dave and Sally Helms with Loren Hart and Debra Besch

Thursdays, 7:00 PM on Zoom

Once again we are teaming with Debra Besch and Loren Hart to explore the wide variety of art at this small but significant and diverse art collection. We'll conclude with a visit to the museum. Six sessions beginning Thursday, **October 12**.

CG 6 – Handmade Happiness

Led by Linda Bucher

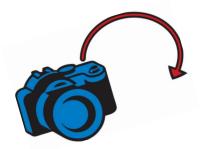
Mondays, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM at Reformation Limited to 6 Participants

Do you enjoy making things with your hands? Do you like to spread joy by gifting what you make? Come and explore simple techniques such as hand quilting, felting, weaving and more. We will make very simple gifts for family, friends, or random giving.

CG 7 - Holy Hikers

Led by the Troutman family
Sundays at 3:30 pm at various
locations, starting Oct. 1 Weather-Dependent

Reconnect with mother nature, meet new friends and get some exercise along the way. Join us Sunday afternoons as we explore different parks and preserves in Delaware and Chester Counties. All hikes will be beginner/easy level but trails may not be paved. Kids and leashed dogs are welcome to join the fun! You will be home in time for dinner. If you have any questions, please see Jen, Jameson or Kaylee Troutman.



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.*



New members join Reformation during worship on July 30.



Celebrating a baptism during worship on August 6.



The Prayground in the Sanctuary received a makeover through a Thrivent Action Team grant.



David McCarrick and Brian Wilson exchanging vows during their wedding on August 12.



School supplies collected through the summer were sent out through The InterFaith Conference of Southern Delaware County.



Celebrating a baptism during worship on August 13.



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



Return Service Requested

Label

REFORMATION TIMES

September 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, September 10
Rally Day
Blessing of the Backpacks
Regular Schedule Resumes
4 pm—Capital Campaign

Sunday, September 17
God's Work, Our Hands
4 pm—One World Concert

Preview Event

Saturday, September 23
Blood Drive
9 am—2 pm

September 29-30
Youth Lock In
Friday 7 pm to Saturday 9 am