

# REFORMATION TIMES

October 2023

## Celebrate Our Confirmands

On Sunday, **October 22**, during a special worship at 3:00 pm, seven students will affirm the promises made at their baptisms during the Rite of Confirmation. This year's Confirmands are:



**Allison Bocian**

**Griffin Barrett**

**Evie Fernandez**

**Del Lighton**

**Lindsay Lighton**

**Buddy Snyder**

**Adam Stroffolino**

Together we continue to pray for these young members as we celebrate what God is doing in their lives!

## Reformation Sunday



Our congregation has the name "Reformation Lutheran Church" because it was founded on Reformation Sunday, October 29, 1950.

This year, on Reformation Sunday, **October 29**, we will celebrate the 73<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of our founding. Part of that celebration will be the recognition of our Heritage Members (those who have been members for 50 years or more) and members of the 1517 Society (those who remember Reformation in their estate planning). Join us for worship as we celebrate being a church in this place for 73 years!

## Electronics Recycling



Reformation and UUCDC will be hosting a PAR Recycle Works Electronics Recycling event on Saturday,

**October 21**, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. Anything with a plug can be recycled. Some larger or older items might require a small recycling fee – cash and card will be accepted on site. Volunteers are needed to welcome and direct cars. Please contact Pastor Alina to sign up to volunteer or with any questions.

## Trunk or Treat!



Celebrate Halloween with Reformation! Sunday, **October 29** during Education Hour will be a Trunk or Treat event for Reformation children. Volunteers are

invited to dress up, decorate your trunk, and bring some candy! A Signup Genius will be available to fill the spaces around the back of the building. Please reach out to Pastor Eileen for more information.

## Thank you, Reformation!

Thank you to everyone who donated to our recent Lutheran Disaster Relief collection for the Maui Wildfires. With the match from our Endowment Fund, a total of \$6,190.00 was collected for LDR. We appreciate your generosity!





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

*1 Corinthians 12:26*

Welcome **David Parker** who joined Reformation on **September 3**.

**Cole Kevin Kralik**, son of **Sage** and **Kevin Kralik**, was baptized on **September 10**.

**Jonah Robert Flaten**, son of **Erik Flaten** and **Leah Golub**, was born on **September 13**.

**Barbara Creighton** entered eternal life on September 12. A funeral service was held on **September 16** 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 Pastor Eileen with any questions.

Sunday School will be held on:

October 1  
October 8  
October 15  
October 22  
October 29 (*Trunk or Treat*)

Small Stars will be held on:

October 1  
November 5

Children's Choir schedule:

October 1  
October 15

## DAP Halloween Party

### HALLOWEEN PARTY

*for the Domestic Abuse Project*

We know that domestic abuse is scary,  
but getting help doesn't have to be.



**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13TH**

6 PM to 9 PM

The Towne House  
117 Veterans Square, Media, PA 19063

Ticket pre-sale \$45; \$50 at the door

*Costume Contest, Open Bar, Hors d'oeuvres & More!*

*100% of proceeds support programs & services of the  
Domestic Abuse Project of Delaware County, Inc*



For tickets or to make a donation,  
visit Venmo or  
our website ([dapdc.org](http://dapdc.org))  
& note "HALLOWEEN" in the comment



DAP is hosting a Halloween Party on Friday, **October 13**.  
Please contact them at (610) 565-6272 or [dapdc.org](http://dapdc.org)  
for more details.

## 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.



## 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*; Marian Filtz, *Treasurer*; Jamie Anderson, Madison Benzing, Kristen Forster, Eric Hathaway, Gabby Parker, Kaylee Troutman, Pastor Alina Gayeuski and Pastor Eileen Ruppel-Doan.

## Upcoming Youth Events



- **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

## 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 in the Community Room the first Sunday of each month. Learn more and register using this QR code:



## Vote for Pastor Eileen's Hair Color

Throughout the month of October, there will be jugs available at church to vote for Pastor Eileen's next hair color! All proceeds will support Reformation's youth traveling to the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans next summer. To vote, simply add cash, check, or change to the jug of your choice. Pastor Eileen will dye her hair whatever color raises the most money at the end of the month. Additional color options may be added for a \$50 donation. Contact Pastor Eileen with questions - let's get our youth to NOLA!

## 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

## 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!

## Eco Tip for October

Are you looking for products that are both popular AND eco-friendly? Check out the following:

- Natural Beeswax Food Wraps
- Organic Cotton Tote Bags
- Solar-Powered Garden Lights
- Stainless Steel Water Bottles
- Eco-friendly Cleaning Products
- Eco-friendly Phone Cases
- Bamboo Cutlery Set
- Recycled Stationary
- Organic Skincare Products
- Organic Baby Clothing
- Biodegradable Plant Pots
- Reusable Kitchen Storage Bags
- Natural Laundry Detergent
- Reusable Coffee Cups



Just to name a few!

## Domestic Abuse Awareness Month

October is Domestic Abuse Awareness Month. At Reformation we partner with and support the work of the Domestic Abuse Project of Delaware County and The World Council of Churches – Thursdays in Black Campaign. To recognize this issue in our society and to work for a better future, we invite you to join us in raising awareness through some of the following actions:



- Pick up a Thursdays in Black pin at Reformation to wear during the month – especially on Thursdays. Reformation clergy will be wearing them each Sunday in October during worship.
- Wear purple or a purple ribbon during the month – the color of Domestic Violence Awareness.
- Join the Domestic Abuse Project at one of the events throughout the county during the month including: Re-Opening of the Thrift Shop in Pilgrim Gardens on October 12, DAP Halloween Party on October 13 at the Towne House, Survivor Celebration/Victim Tribute at the Courthouse on October 26 at 2:00 pm.
- Share information about DAP with anyone who is in need of their services.

## 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.

## LIRS Fresh Change Bags

Filled bags with clothes for immigrants and refugees are due back for a blessing in worship on **October 8**.



## Celebrate St. Luke

On Sunday, **October 15**, we will commemorate St. Luke, the Evangelist, in worship. Tradition says that Luke was a physician by profession. As such, commemorations honoring him often include a rite of healing. During worship that Sunday, we will include a full Rite of Healing with opportunities for prayer and anointing.

## Shoe Collection for Sanctuary Village



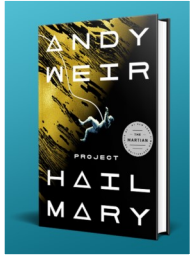
Throughout October, we will be collecting gently used shoes to raise money for Sanctuary Village, a future tiny home community working to end homelessness in Philadelphia. Bring your gently used shoes to the collection area at church and Sanctuary Village will be paid by the pound for the shoes collected. Shoes will be sent to developing countries and sold by micro-entrepreneurs, stimulating their local economies. This will also keep shoes we collect out of landfills and incinerators. Contact Pastor Eileen or Linda Bucher with questions.

## 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 **October 24** 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).



## 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](mailto: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.

## Backpack Collection Thanks!



Thank you to the seventeen Faith Communities that supported the 2023 School Supply/Backpack Collection. We filled 397 Backpacks, 34 more than last year. That is 397 students that you gave a great start for the 2023 –

2024 school year! The backpacks were distributed by Chester Eastside, Inc., and Christ Lutheran Church throughout the Upper Darby community, including immigrant families. What started with a group of Lutheran Churches, has continued as an interfaith event. Special thanks to the individuals who take leadership in their Faith Communities to ensure the success of this effort each year. Next year's collection is scheduled from June 30 to August 4, 2024. Watch for details in the spring.

Sincerely,  
Jody Trojan



## Council Highlights

In September the Council meeting included these highlights:

- Welcoming Vicar Paula to Reformation!
- Approving funding requests from Holiday Offering for the Synod's annual stewardship event and Lutheran Settlement House Thanksgiving food program.
- Approving plans for a surge protector installation.
- Update on Capital Campaign and fall Stewardship Campaign.

# The Evolution of a Building Project

*by Dick Hughey*

The west entrance to the Church building is not used as much as other entrances and, some of you may have never used it. But, it is an important entrance for people attending meetings especially in the evening. The chancel choir members all use the west entrance for rehearsals held in the evening.

A couple years ago Paul and Donna Jann noted that it would be helpful if some handrails were installed by the two large steps that lead to the stairway. Some concern was also expressed about the lighting. Solar lights were being used along the walkway and, unfortunately, not enough light was being supplied.

Fast forward to this year when Leo Foti and Dick Hughey (confirmation student and mentor) were looking for a good Church project to complete. They reviewed the situation and got a game plan together. Realizing some skilled work was required, they made Vince Walsh aware of the project. Vince is well known to Reformation having designed and installed the labyrinth, worked on the gazebo and provided expert landscape design and installation around the Church property. He knew what we needed.

The result: we have new handrails, hardwired lighting and a much improved and welcoming west entrance.

Do you have a project you would like to see done? Do you have a skill you would like to share?

Reformation is a big facility used by many and we always have projects and maintenance issues. **WE NEED YOUR HELP AND INPUT!**

Just contact the church office and we will use your ideas and skill at some point. Yes, it may take two years but it will eventually get done. And your skills? We will find a job you love immediately!







## David Parker

My name is David and I am 26 years old. I have been attending church services at Reformation for a few years now and was married to my wife, Gabrielle Parker, at Reformation this past April. I currently live in Phoenixville, but am moving to Douglassville this month. I work as a Software Engineer to help companies to collect online payments. I am very excited to officially become a member at Reformation and look forward to continuing to grow with this community!



## 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.

## Christ In Our Home Booklets

The October/November/December 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.

## Blessing of the Animals

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



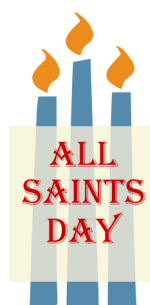
1:00 pm. The service will be held around the back of the church building. If your pet is unable to attend the service, please feel free to bring a photo of them. You are also invited to bring along a donation for the

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

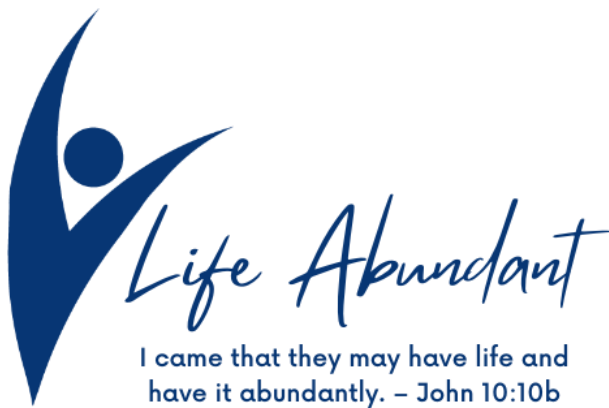
For the complete list, please go to: [providenceac.org/support-us/wishlist](http://providenceac.org/support-us/wishlist).

## Remembering All the Saints



All Saints Sunday is a time when the church celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who are the body of Christ. So too, it is a day for us to remember all who have died in Christ and whose baptism is complete. Once again, this year at Reformation, we will remember those we love by creating a temporary art installation entitled, "Ribbons of Remembrance."

On Sundays **October 15, 22** and **29**, there will be a station in the lobby where you will be able to make your ribbons. Ribbons made the last several years will be on display again this year. Stop by and use the materials provided to create a remembrance ribbon with the name of the person you would like to have remembered. Your personalized ribbons will be hung in our worship space on All Saints Sunday, **November 5**.



## Capital Campaign Update

This month we kicked off our three year "Life Abundant" Capital Campaign with a goal of \$500,000 to replace our roof and build a pavilion and reflection garden on our property. Be on the lookout in your mailbox and inbox for more Campaign information this month!

## Capital Campaign FAQ of the Month

**How is this different from the Annual Fund and Faith Engagement Stewardship campaign?**

Annual Fund support is the gift you make regularly, every year, that sustains the ministry of the congregation. The Annual Fund supports Reformation's operating budget. The Faith Engagement Fund is what enables us to invest in the ministry of the congregation - especially in ways that are unplanned at the beginning of the year. For example, Vicar Paula's time with us was an opportunity we were presented with in the Spring. Your generous giving made it possible for us to give an enthusiastic "yes!" to accompanying her as she prepares for professional ministry in the church. The Capital Campaign goals are for projects over and above the regular giving.

## New Sanctuary Lighting

The lights in the sanctuary are being replaced! Our electricians will soon be bringing down the chandeliers in the sanctuary and installing new track lighting and wall fixtures to improve our worship space.

## Capital Campaign Preview Event



Our preview event on September 10 was quite a success! Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the event possible.

*Joyce McNally and Mary Shook having some fun at the Campaign preview event on September 10.*

## 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

**Grief and Loss Group**

 **GRACE**  
Lutheran Church

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



Wednesdays, 7-8 pm

Pay what you can; professionally facilitated

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

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





Much like Dorothy's claim in *The Wizard of Oz*, there is truly "no place like home!" It is so good to be back at Reformation following my sabbatical.

My time away was deeply meaningful and enriching. I was able to take a Lutherland trip in Germany – a special tour that travels through the places that were important in Luther's life. This trip has been a longtime dream trip for me and Dan was able to go with me. I was also able to spend a week as a Chaplain at Bear Creek Camp and I spent weekends attending worship at congregations on the east coast that are places Reformation might be able to learn some best practices or find inspiration for new ministry ideas.

As many of you know, I was also writing my thesis for my Doctor of Ministry degree. I have a full draft into my advisor and I am working with her on revisions as I prepare for my panel. I will be graduating with that degree in May of next year. For those who are unfamiliar with this type of degree, it is considered a practical doctorate and is the ministry equivalent to a Doctor of Education.

While all of these things were life-giving and this time was something I will always cherish, there is nothing like coming back to a place and people you love. I am excited by all the energy and enthusiasm that this fall is already filled with here. There is so much that God is continuing to call us to together in this place and time and the greatest gift is being part of watching it all unfold.

Thank you for your support and encouragement during my sabbatical and for your warm welcome as I have returned. I look forward to all of the ways we will be continuing to invite, serve, and build here at Reformation.

With deep gratitude and love,

Pastor Alina Gayeusk

## Rose Tree Road Fall Cleanup

Can you smell fall in the air and see the leaves start to change colors? Well then, it's time for a clean up of Rose Tree Road! We will meet at the church on Saturday, **October 7** at 10:00 am. Please mark your calendars! (Orange vests and gloves will be provided).



## Finance Smart

by Christine Corson

How safe are you keeping your personal information? I'm sure

this question has popped into your mind many times. With all the cyber threats and attacks happening lately, who wouldn't think about it? So let's go over some things that will help you to safeguard your personal information.

Passwords should be extremely difficult to guess. If you're using easy passwords, change them immediately. Be creative! And if you're using the same password for every website, that's a "no no"! Personal information, especially social security numbers, should not be sent in emails or texts. Do not give your information to someone you don't recognize or enter it into a website that is not secure or authentic. If you've never used a particular website before, check the website's credentials first. Be careful what you share on social media. If your kids are on social media, it's wise to check their privacy settings and discuss with them what's safe to share and what's not. Be careful when using free Wi-Fi when you are out and about, such as doctors' offices, grocery stores, or while having your vehicle serviced. Never access your bank account or enter credit card numbers while on free Wi-Fi. Always wait until you're on a more secured network.

You can't stop identity theft or hacking but you can do your best to protect yourself and that makes you...**Finance Smart!!!**





# 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).*



Volunteers help set up the T-shirt Memorial to the Lost on September 9.



Contents of the Reformation time capsule from 1953 on display at the Capital Campaign preview event on September 10.



Pastor Eileen installs our Christian Education leaders on Rally Day, September 10.



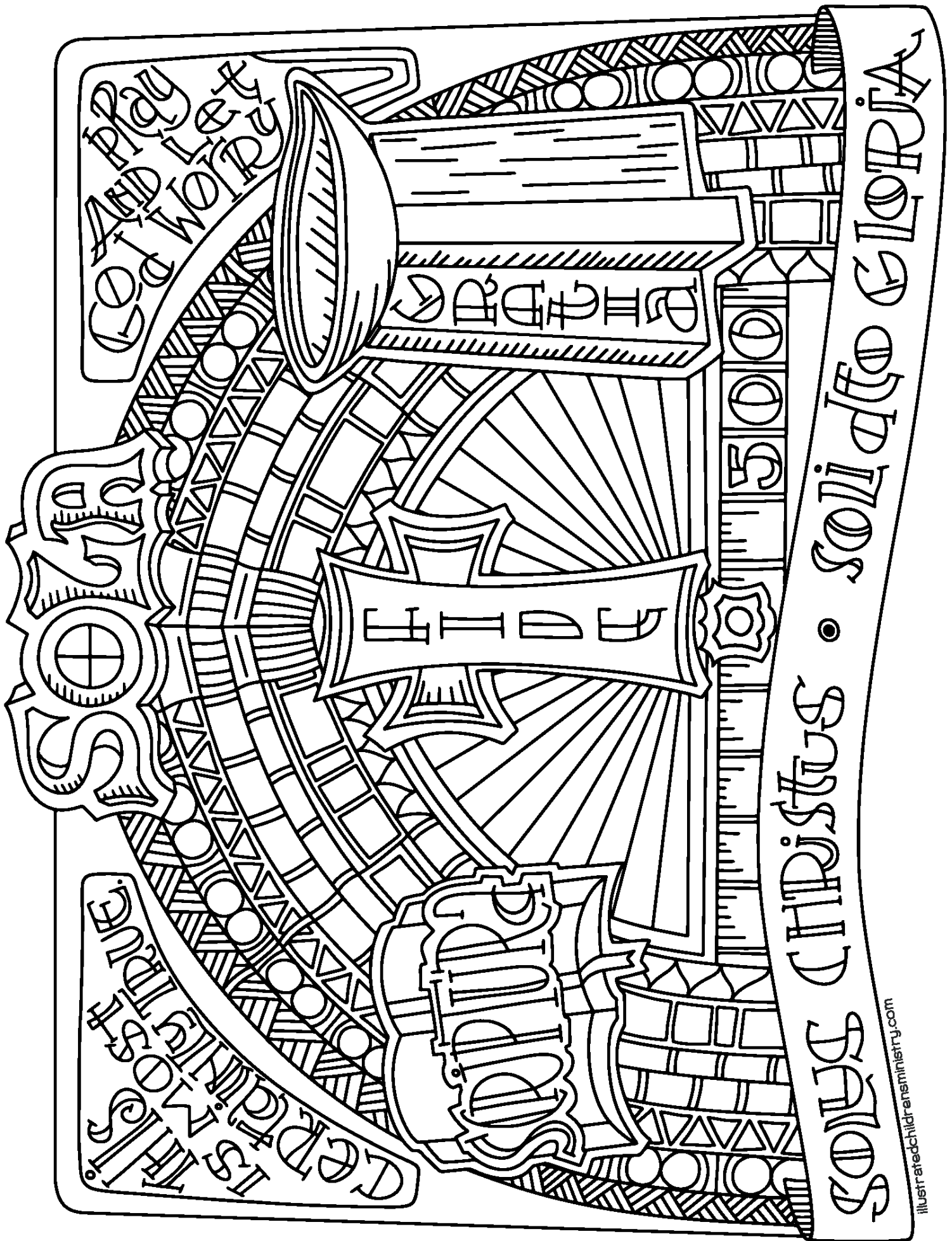
The first meeting of the Breakfast Club on September 10.



Gabrielle and David Parker strike a pose at our Capital Campaign preview event on September 10.



Karen Chorney delivers children's dental supplies collected by the Lunch Bunch to the Domestic Abuse Project on September 13.







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

### October 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, October 8  
Reinhard Scholarship  
1 pm Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 15  
St. Luke Celebration

Saturday, October 21  
9 am—1 pm  
PAR Recycle Works  
Electronics Recycling Event

Sunday, October 22  
3 pm Confirmation