

REFORMATION TIMES

November 2023

We Remember All the Saints



On All Saints Sunday, **November 5**, we remember and give thanks to God “for all the saints, who from their labors rest.” The following members of Reformation are named and remembered on that Day:

Barbara Creighton
Steve Kratowicz
Mildred Royer
Jane Schock
Joanne Scott
Benny Strain
Helga Talbot

“Rest eternal grant them, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon them.”

Holiday Food Bags

The Community Action Ministry is collecting bags of food, cash donations, and \$40 Giant/Shop Rite gift cards to help our neighbors in need with holiday meals. These bags will be delivered to Second Time Around Parents, Migrant Ministries of Chester County, the Philadelphia Group, and Phoenix Recovery Houses. The food lists have been adjusted to better meet the needs of those we serve. If you prefer to give a cash or gift card donation, please use the envelopes on the lobby counter.



Thanksgiving donations must be returned to Reformation by Sunday, **November 5**.

Christmas bags will be available for pick up Sunday, **November 26** and must be returned (along with any cash or gift card donations) to Reformation by Sunday, **December 10**. Thank you for helping our neighbors in need!

Thanks Living

*Now thank we all our God
with hearts and hands
and voices,
who wondrous things
has done,
in whom this world rejoices.*

- Now Thank We All Our God (ELW No. 840)

For Christians, “Thanksgiving” is not just a one-day holiday; it is a way of life—“Thanks Living.” We give thanks to God for all our blessings by our daily choices, actions and attitudes.

On Sunday, **November 12**, we will celebrate the abundant blessings we have received and give thanks to God. During worship, we will bless our food gifts which are being sent out into the community for Thanksgiving meals.



Stewardship Response

On **October 29** we celebrated Commitment Sunday.

Thank you for your generous response to all that God has done and is doing in your life and in our life together at Reformation for the past 73 years and for untold years in the future!

If you have not had a chance to return your *Estimate of Giving* card yet, please do so as soon as possible so we can plan for 2024 in a fiscally responsible manner. You can complete it confidentially and securely online at relcmedia.org/stewardship.





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

1 Corinthians 12:26

Welcome **Susanna Dooley** who joined Reformation on **October 1**.

Stella Blue Dooley and Nora Mae Dooley, children of **Susanna** and **Jed Dooley** and grandchildren of **Anna Stevenson** were baptized on **October 1**.

McCoy Tomlinson Davis, child of **Laura** and **Cruz Davis** and grandchild of **Valerie Rozek** was baptized on **October 8**.

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:

November 5
November 12
November 19
December 3

Small Stars will be held on:

November 5
December 3

Children's Choir schedule:

November 5
November 19
December 3



Council Highlights

In October the Council meeting included these highlights:

- Approved New Members: Susanna Dooley and her children Nora and Stella, Sabrina and John Pitonyak and their daughter Nadia.
- Approved Confirmands as New Members through the Rite of Confirmation on October 22: Allison Bocian, Griffin Barrett, Evie Fernandez, Del Lighton, Lindsay Lighton, Buddy Snyder, and Adam Stroffilino.
- Appointed John Grantland and Debbie Conley to serve as voting members to the Delaware Conference Assembly on October 23 for the election of a new Dean.
- Approved Holiday Offering funds for a City Team Baby Shower for women in their Turning Point program.
- Approved Endowment Capital Funds for repairs to the heating system.

Reformation Facebook Group



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

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.

2023 Gift Giving Opportunities

It is St. Nicholas time at Reformation!

How can you participate? Give a direct donation to any of the agencies listed, shop for gifts and bring all **UNWRAPPED** gifts to worship by **December 10** for a special blessing in worship, or use the agency Amazon wish lists provided to place an order to be delivered directly to the agency.

You can also have items shipped to Reformation's address labeled **ATTN: St. Nick**.

Questions? Please contact Linda Bucher at 610-566-0862.

Caring for Friends

This ministry serves isolated homebound persons, primarily the frail elderly, in the Greater Philadelphia area, with free daily home-cooked meals delivered weekly by volunteer visitors. The goal is to help people enhance their quality of life, maintain their independence, and remain in their own homes for as long as possible. To send a gift directly to Caring for Friends, use the link found on our website: relcmedia.org/stnick.

Chester Eastside Ministry

A respected force for good in Chester, this agency provides food and clothing ministries, basic tutoring and educational enrichment programs, crisis counseling and community advocacy programs.

Target and Wal-Mart gift cards requested. Please indicate the amount of the gift card and place in an envelope marked "Chester Eastside". \$25 gift cards preferred.

Domestic Abuse Project

Domestic Abuse Project provides services for partners and their families who are in abusive relationships. Items on their wish list include: **Gift cards (\$25 to Giant, Acme, Target, Walmart, Aldi, Wawa), packaged single serve snacks and drinks, cleaning supplies, pillows, feminine products, basic sweatshirts and pants (i.e. Hanes brand unisex S, M, L, XL no designs, neutral colors) socks, basic women's underwear all sizes.**

Cradles to Crayons

Cradles to Crayons provides children from birth through age 12, who are living in homeless or low-income situations, with the essential items they need to thrive. To send a gift directly to Cradles to Crayons, use the link found on our website: relcmedia.org/stnick.

KenCrest

KenCrest provides services for early childhood development and for individuals with developmental disabilities. Their needs are:

Books (ages 0-10), hats, gloves, mittens, etc. for boys and girls (ages 0-5), puzzles, toys (for ages 0-5) and diapers (especially for 0-6 months).

Lutheran Settlement House

Since its founding in 1902, LSH has served vulnerable children, adults and families living in the inner city. Today they serve especially the newly homeless, abused women and children, and low-income seniors. To find wish lists for the Lutheran Settlement House, please go to our website: relcmedia.org/stnick.

Migrant Ministry of Chester County

This ministry works year-round with people who harvest mushrooms in Kennett Square, providing warm clothing and blankets as well as having Bible studies and offering many diverse services for the families. Migrant Ministries' needs are:

New full-size blankets, socks, gloves, scarves for men, women, boys and girls.



The Pitonyak Family

Sabrina and John Pitonyak moved to Media in 2021 from South Philadelphia. John is a West Point graduate and now works as a management consultant for Gallup after serving 5 years in the Army. He is originally from Hamilton NJ. Sabrina is a pediatric rheumatologist, originally from Queens, New York. Their daughter, Nadia, was born in June of this year and the family has an Irish terrier, named Seamus. The family enjoys hiking, cooking up new recipes, and spending time with family and friends. They appreciate how welcoming everyone at Reformation has been and are excited to formally join the congregation!



Susanna Dooley



I live in Garnet Valley with my husband Jed, two daughters—Stella and Nora, and our little dog Bean. I have been an Art teacher for 19 years and love inspiring today's youth to be creative! As a family, we enjoy the beach, live music, playing games, and watching our daughters participate in various sports and activities.

CPR/AED Training at Reformation



Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is an electrical malfunction in the heart that can happen anywhere and to anyone. It is the leading cause of premature death in the United States claiming nearly 400,000 lives a year of people with “hearts and brains too good to die”. SCA is usually correctable, but that requires immediate action by ordinary people who are not professional first responders.

Fortunately, it is correctable if family, friends or fellow parishioners who are nearby take immediate action. To do so, they need to know CPR and how to use an available automated external defibrillator (AED). RLC has 2 AEDs in our building, but we need some of the members of our congregation to be trained in performing CPR and applying this simple medical device.

If you are interested and willing to give someone in cardiac arrest a second chance at life, we invite you to sign up for our 2-hour class CPR/AED that will be conducted here at our church on Saturday, **November 11** from 10:00 am—12 noon.

The class will be conducted by Frank Poliafico, RN, one of our neighbors (from Northgate Village), who is a highly experienced emergency care professional and CPR/AED instructor. Frank is once again volunteering his services to our parish and, except for a nominal \$15 fee per person to cover the cost of materials, there will be no charge to participants.

To register for the class, please look for the sign up sheet in the lobby or call the church office.

Underwear Collection Update



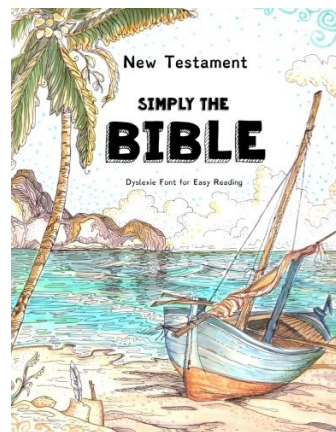
Many thanks to everyone who donated underwear and socks to NGA! We gave away 4818 items, of which 532 were donated through Reformation.
- Sally Burkam

“Easy Read” Bibles Now Available

Reformation has recently purchased two copies of “Simply the Bible—New Testament.”

These bibles are large print, “easy to read” Bibles that use the Dyslexie font for struggling readers, beginning readers and those with dyslexia.

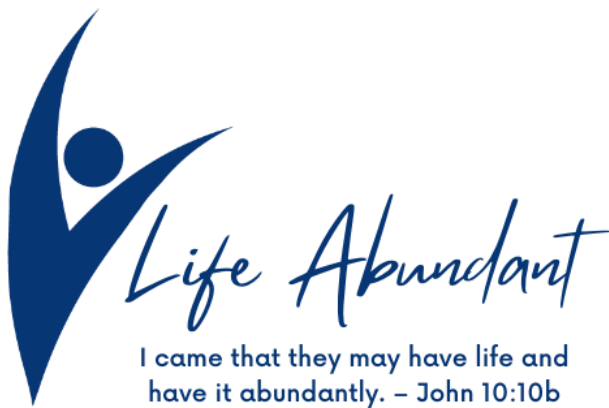
One copy will be kept in our library and another will be in the back of the sanctuary for anyone who would like to use them.



Big Band From the Valley Concert

Come out to Reformation for some pretzels, beer and great music on Sunday, **November 5** at 4:00 pm. *The Big Band From the Valley* originated close to fifty years ago in Rose Valley, Delaware County and perform hits from the 1940's all the way to present day favorites. Admission is free.





Capital Campaign Update

Thank you to everyone who has pledged and already contributed to our campaign! We'll be sharing totals and updates with you in the next newsletter! There is still time to pledge and learn more at relcmedia.org/lifeabundant.

Capital Campaign FAQ of the Month

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. Gifts can be provided immediately or pledges can be fulfilled over a three-year period from January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2026. 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.



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!

Longing for the Light

December 3 is the First Sunday in Advent. Worship that day will include our "Longing for the Light of Healing and Hope" liturgy which includes a Prayer Litany and, optionally, Candle Lighting and Individual Prayer for Healing.

Advent Gospel Procession by Children



There will be a special opportunity for children to be involved in worship during the season of Advent, beginning on **December 3**. Children will be invited to help the preacher bring the Bible forward from a table in the back of the sanctuary and stand around the preacher for the reading of the gospel. Everyone will then continue with the Sermon on the Steps as usual in the service.

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



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.



Finance Smart

by Christine Corson

Have you ever thought about making your gift to Reformation easier for you to do? If so, let's talk about recurring donations! Reformation makes it very easy to give. You can give online by using your credit card, you can use Venmo, write a check, and of course you can always give cash. But let's say you're unable to come to in-person services or you prefer to attend online worship. If you are set up on recurring giving, your gift to the church gets there regardless of your attendance choice. You don't have to worry about the commitment. It's very easy to cancel at any time. And once you set it up, it's done and you don't have to think about it, and that makes you...**Finance Smart!!!**

Rose Tree Road Cleanup Success!

Even though Mother Nature played hide and seek with us all morning on **October 7**, we still had a nice turn out for Rose Tree Road clean up. Dick and Kris Hughey, Kate and Evie Fernandez, and Marilyn and John Berberich, braved the threatening weather to collect six bags of trash and multiple car parts. A big thank-you to everyone!



Fall Back

Daylight Savings Time Ends

*Mark your calendars and remember
to turn your clocks back on
Sunday, November 5.*

LIRS Bags—THANK YOU!

Thanks to your generosity, we collected 52 bags of clothing for immigrants and refugees!



Blessing of the LIRS Bags during the Sermon on the Steps on Sunday, October 8.

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!

Upcoming Youth Events



- **November 5** – Breakfast Club
- **November 12** – Youth Group
12:00 pm—1:30 pm
- **December 3** – Breakfast Club

Winter Connect Weekend



CONNECT is a fun-filled weekend at Bear Creek Camp to share with camp friends and returning summer counselors in activities unique to BCC in the winter! The weekend kicks off on Friday night and runs until Sunday after lunch. Cost for the weekend is \$130 per person. Registration is now open and closes on Wednesday, **December 27**.

4th -12th Grade - **January 12—14**

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

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.

Eco Tip for November

The Fair Trade Certified logo, which consists of a green circle containing a stylized figure of a person holding a bowl, with the words "FAIR TRADE CERTIFIED" written below it.

wrap up some justice

SHOP FAIR TRADE ITEMS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Reformation is the first Fair Trade certified congregation in Pennsylvania in America's first fair trade town!

COFFEE

A simple illustration of a white cup of coffee with steam rising from it.

Shopping for someone who loves their morning coffee? Seek out fair trade sellers such as Equal Exchange!

CHOCOLATE

A wrapper for a chocolate bar, with the word "Chocolate" visible.

Add something extra sweet to stockings with some fair trade chocolate! Look for the fair trade symbol on items that can be found in most candy aisles!

ACCESSORIES

An illustration of various accessories, including a beaded necklace, a scarf, and a small pouch.

Jewelry, scarves, and more are items handcrafted by artisans around the world. Stores like Ten Thousand Villages offer a great selection of these fair trade gift items.

HOLIDAY DECOR

An illustration of three Christmas ornaments: two red with white patterns and one gold with white patterns.

Make your Christmas extra special with fair trade decorations. Check out the collection at websites like serrv.com.



Hello, Beloveds!

If you've been in worship lately - and especially at the late service - you may have noticed a wave of baptisms! Throughout 2023, we have had a total of 10 newly baptized members of the body of Christ, the Church! We have also confirmed 7 ninth grade students this fall, and welcomed a handful of new members through Affirmation of Baptism in recent months.

In baptism, promises are typically made by parents, caregivers, and sponsors on behalf of the newly baptized. We've heard these words in worship a lot recently, but there is never a bad time to be reminded of your baptism! These promises are to...

*live among God's faithful people,
hear the word of God and share in
the Lord's supper,
proclaim the good news of God in Christ
through word and deed,
serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and strive for justice and peace in all the earth.*

Whew! These are no small tasks. That is exactly why this liturgy is communal. In baptism or affirmation, we ask the people - the assembly, sponsors and parents, mentors - to promise that we will help one another. Because living out our faith is communal work - Jesus had a whole community of followers alongside him in his ministry! We give thanks to God for the abundant community that walks alongside us, accompanying us and reminding us that we are never alone.

In Peace,
Pastor Eileen (she/her)

December Preview

There are many upcoming events in December. Mark your calendars and plan to join us! Look for more details in next month's newsletter, the weekly bulletin announcements and on our website.

December 3

First Sunday of Advent

December 10

St. Nicholas celebration during worship

December 17

Blessing of the Greens during worship
Hanging of the Greens following worship

December 24

Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship at 10:00 am
Christmas Eve Worship at 4:00, 6:00 & 8:00pm.

December 25

Christmas Day Worship at 10:00 am
(Online only)

December 31

Worship at 10:00 am

Light the Advent Wreath



If you are interested in serving as an Advent Wreath lighter at one of our worships during the Advent season (**Sundays, December 3, 10, 17 and 24**), please contact the church office (rlc@relcmedia.org) and tell us the dates and worship time you are able to serve. If you are already on our Worship Team, you can choose your date directly through the scheduling system.



Visionary Women: Rooted in Faith, Committed to Justice

Visionary Women is an intergenerational program engaging issues at the intersection of religion, gender, race, and social justice concerns. As we move to create a group that is culturally, religiously, and ideologically diverse – we encourage participation in this experiential dialogue. Participants do not need to identify with a religious tradition or be a member of a congregation to enroll.

Since its conception in 2016, Visionary Women sessions offer immersion in five religious settings and facilitate the creation of meaningful relationships in a small group environment. Interfaith Philadelphia encourages and supports participants of Visionary Women to continue their interfaith learning and collaboration with each other outside of our monthly meetings and moving forward within their own communities.

**Six Sessions: January - May 2024,
2:00-5:00 PM**

January 7:

2:00-3:30 pm Orientation/Welcome (Virtual)

January 21:

Islamic Society of Greater Valley Forge
(In-person)

February 11:

Beth Am Israel (In-person)

March 17:

Unitarian Universalists of Mt. Airy (In-person)

April 28:

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day
Saints (In-person)

May 19:

Greater Community Bible Tabernacle
(In-person)

For more information and to register, please go to interfaithphiladelphia.org/events.

Gratitude Jar: How To

- **Find a clean jar and label it “gratitude”.**
- **Fill with strips of paper that say what you’re thankful for (use drawings for younger children).**
- **Pick a time to read through everything (New Year’s Eve is a great time!)**
- **Also add ticket stubs, programs, or other memories you’d like to remember with gratitude.**

traci
smith

Faith-Life Forums

Throughout the year, during the Education hour on Sunday morning, we will offer opportunities to learn about topics at the intersection of faith and life. Our first forum will be Sunday, **November 12**, at 9:45 am. Former Reformation Summer Intern, Leigh Richard, will lead a "Gender and Sexuality 101" forum. This presentation will explain various gender identities and expressions and sexual orientations.

Save the date for the next Faith-Life Forum on **December 10** with Michelle Brown, Executive Director of the Domestic Abuse Project of Delaware County.



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.*



Pastor Alina, Pastor Eileen, Vicar Paula and friends on God's Work, Our Hands Sunday, September 17.



Some of our younger members enjoying the "Prayground" during worship on Sunday, October 1.



Sunday School students building their own vineyard after learning about Bible vineyard stories on October 1.



Pastor Alina, Vicar Paula and Pastor Eileen with Reinhard Scholar, Cassandra Singh-Hueter, on Sunday, October 8.



Sunday School students building their own vineyard after learning about Bible vineyard stories on October 1.



Pastor Alina leads the Blessing of the Animals service on Sunday, October 8.



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

November 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, November 5

All Saints' Sunday
Daylight Savings Time Ends
Big Band From the Valley
Concert - 4:00 pm

Tuesday, November 7

Election Day - Office Closed

Saturday, November 11

CPR/AED Training 10:00 am
Creighton Hall

Sunday, November 12

ThanksLiving Sunday

Thursday, November 23

Thanksgiving Day -
Office Closed 11/23 and 11/24