

# REFORMATION TIMES

January 2024

## SOUPer Bowl Sunday



The Souper Bowl of Caring is coming! This year, the Souper Bowl of Caring is Sunday, **February 11**.

This year, once again, Reformation will be collecting most needed items to support those in need. The donations will be delivered to the Media Food Bank and Chester Eastside.

This year, we will be collecting:

- Cereal
- Cooking oil (vegetable and olive oil)
- Honey
- Pasta of all shapes
- Macaroni and cheese
- Dried beans

Items will be collected between **January 21** and **February 11**, and may be placed on the tables

## Celebrate RIC Sunday

Both worship services on Sunday, **January 28** will participate in the annual Reconciling in Christ Sunday to celebrate our commitment to welcome and affirm the LGBTQIA+ community and all God's people. For more information or to be part of the leadership on this day, contact Pastor Eileen.



## Blood Drive



Reformation will be hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on Saturday, **February 3** from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please go to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org).

## Constitution Forum

Pastor Alina will be leading a Constitution Forum on Sunday, **January 14**. This forum will be in person and on Zoom at 9:45 am. It will be recorded and shared prior to the Annual Meeting. During this time, she will present the details of the proposed amendments and answer questions regarding the process. More information on the proposed changes as well as a digital copy of the constitution can be found at [relcmedia.org/constitution](http://relcmedia.org/constitution).

## Finance Forum

Treasurer Marian Filtz will hold a Finance Forum on Sunday, **January 21**, where she will present a detailed financial report of 2023 and the budget for 2024. This forum will be in person and on Zoom at 9:45 am. It will also be recorded and shared prior to the Annual Meeting. At the Annual Meeting she will present a brief summary of this information. The finance report and proposed budget will be available as part of the Annual Meeting Materials.

## Annual Meeting January 28



Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, **January 28** at 12:00 noon in the sanctuary. The meeting will be live streamed but you must attend in person to have a voice and vote! The Annual Report and Annual Meeting Materials will be shared by the preceding Sunday at the latest, with printed copies available for pick up at the church and digital copies shared via email. Contact the church office if you need either mailed to you.



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

*1 Corinthians 12:26*

**Dallas Scott** entered eternal life on **November 14**. A memorial service was held on **November 27**.

**Nancylou O'Brien** entered eternal life on **November 24**. A memorial service was held on **December 4**.



## 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:

January 7  
January 14  
January 21  
January 28

Children's Choir schedule:

January 7

## Reformation Facebook Group



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



# Council Highlights

The December Council meeting included these highlights:

- Updates on the annual stewardship and capital campaigns.
- Approval of annual housing allowance for the pastors.
- Long range planning information reviewed.

## Epiphany @ Home



On **January 7**, Epiphany @ Home packets will be available for families to take home. The packets will include a litany and instructions for Blessing your Home and Inscribing your Entryway, a traditional Epiphany practice in the church.

## Christ In Our Home Booklets

The January/February/March 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.

## 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.

## Mark E. Davis Scholarship

The Mark E. Davis Scholarship was established by The Rev. William and Irene Davis, following the death of their son, Mark. The scholarship is a one-year scholarship to a four-year college or university awarded to a member(s) of Reformation Lutheran Church. Applicants can be high school seniors or currently attending a college or university. The scholarship is awarded to an applicant(s) who demonstrates a high level of academic, religious, and community-oriented commitment and achievement. The scholarship is awarded annually in July.



Applications for the 2024-2025 academic year may be obtained by downloading from the church website, a printed copy by contacting the church office, or electronically by contacting Ellen Davis Conroy by email at [DavisScholarship@relcmedia.org](mailto:DavisScholarship@relcmedia.org). All applications and support materials must be received or postmarked by the May 1, 2024 deadline.

**Applicants should be aware that requesting transcripts and letters of recommendation can take extra time and should plan accordingly in order to meet the deadline.**

Applications can be left at the church office c/o Mark E. Davis Scholarship Committee to the attention of Ellen Davis Conroy, or emailed to [DavisScholarship@relcmedia.org](mailto:DavisScholarship@relcmedia.org), or mailed and postmarked by May 1, 2024. Applications not received by this deadline will not be considered.

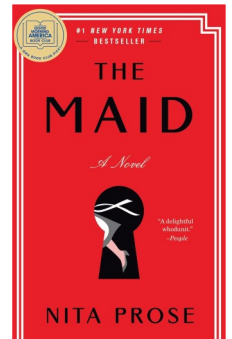
Mailing address:

Mark E. Davis Scholarship Committee  
c/o Ellen Davis Conroy  
Reformation Lutheran Church  
102 West Rose Tree Road  
Media, PA 19063

Any questions can be addressed to the following committee members: Sandy Coll, Ellen Davis Conroy, Evan Davis or Rebecca Funk.

## Library Book Club News

Who doesn't love a great "who dunnit?" mystery to read over the holidays? Join us on Tuesday, **January 23** at 7:00pm via Zoom for a discussion of the award-winning debut novel ***The Maid*** by Nita Prose. All are welcome! Contact Laura Reiter for more details at [longreiter@gmail.com](mailto:longreiter@gmail.com).



About *The Maid* from Goodreads.com:

Molly Gray is not like everyone else. She struggles with social skills and misreads the intentions of others. Her gran used to interpret the world for her, codifying it into simple rules that Molly could live by.

Since Gran died a few months ago, twenty-five-year-old Molly has been navigating life's complexities all by herself. No matter—she throws herself with gusto into her work as a hotel maid. Her unique character, along with her obsessive love of cleaning and proper etiquette, make her an ideal fit for the job. She delights in donning her crisp uniform each morning, stocking her cart with miniature soaps and bottles, and returning guest rooms at the Regency Grand Hotel to a state of perfection.

But Molly's orderly life is upended the day she enters the suite of the infamous and wealthy Charles Black, only to find it in a state of disarray and Mr. Black himself dead in his bed. Before she knows what's happening, Molly's unusual demeanor has the police targeting her as their lead suspect. She quickly finds herself caught in a web of deception, one she has no idea how to untangle. Fortunately for Molly, friends she never knew she had unite with her in a search for clues to what really happened to Mr. Black—but will they be able to find the real killer before it's too late?

A Clue-like, locked-room mystery and a heartwarming journey of the spirit, *The Maid* explores what it means to be the same as everyone else and yet entirely different—and reveals that all mysteries can be solved through connection to the human heart.

## Parkinson's Support Group



Come and bring your caretaker to share your story and your thoughts on how you are living with Parkinson's. Each person's story will help to support others in your journey to live well. We will explore all you need to know and use, to help find continued happiness. Sharing and caring is

the support we all need. This group meets on the first Wednesday of each month from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm at St. John's Episcopal Church, 576 Concord Road in Glen Mills in the parish hall, which is handicap accessible.

For more information please email [darreeclark@gmail.com](mailto:darreeclark@gmail.com) or go to [SaintJohnsConcord.com](http://SaintJohnsConcord.com).

## Capital Campaign Update

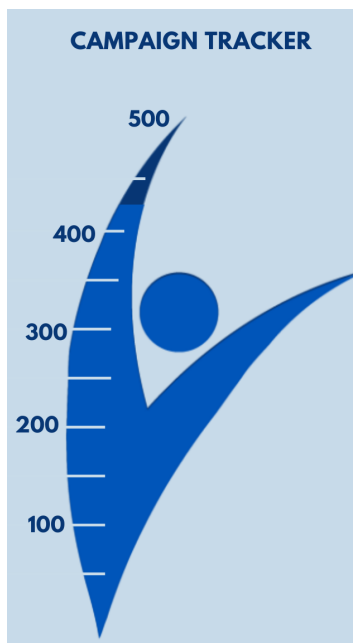


Thank you for your pledges and contributions! We have secured a total of \$435,932 pledged and/or given for our campaign, out of the total

goal of \$500,000! Help us reach our goal at [relcmedia.org/lifeabundant](http://relcmedia.org/lifeabundant).

### Funding Update

Estate & Designated Funds	\$76,628
Gifts Pledged	\$359,304
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$435,932</b>



## Thank you!

*Dear Reformation,  
Thank you for the incredible surprise celebration of my tenth ordination anniversary! I cherish the notes and cards from everyone and, even more so, cherish the incredible gift it is to be a pastor here and serve alongside of you.*

*Thank you for the joy you each bring to this incredible calling and for all the ways we are able to give thanks and praise to God!*

*With love and gratitude,  
Pastor Alina Gayeuski*



## 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.*

## 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!



## Upcoming Youth Events



- **January 7** – Breakfast Club
- **January 21** – Youth Gathering Meeting
- **January 21** – Youth Group

## 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.

## Community Action Team Meeting

Community Action Team will gather on Zoom on Monday **January 8**, at 6:30 pm to ring in the new year and plan for enriching activities and service projects in 2024. Our first activity will be on **January 14** during the 9:45 am Education Hour for Reformation members to commemorate MLK day. Come to hear about the preliminary plans for MLK Sunday and bring your ideas for this event and future events in the new year. Please reach out to Linda Bucher with any questions.

## Phoenix Recovery Project Members Thank You

Dear Reformation,  
My name is Kerry Keeler and I'm a house manager at 22 High St in Phoenixville that is part of The Phoenix Recovery

Project. I want to thank you for your generous donations you have made to our house. We are very grateful for these and look forward to putting them to good use this coming holiday. It's very important and much appreciated to have this support during the holidays as many of us won't be able to be with our families. This type of kindness allows us to come together as a house and enjoy our time bonding with one another. Thank you again for your generosity and Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family.

Kerry

Dear Reformation,  
My name is Drew and I'm a house manager at one of the Phoenix Recovery Project houses in Phoenixville. I just wanted to reach out and say thank you for the pantry items you donated for this Thanksgiving season. Me and all of the guys appreciate the kind gesture.

Sincerely,

Drew Matlock

## Eco Tip for January



Now that the Christmas shopping season is over, recycle all of your old catalogs in Reformation's recycling bins or through your township's recycling program. Cardboard can also be recycled by most townships' recycling programs as well. Happy New Year!

Thank You!

# FROM THE PASTOR

*When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*

*- Matthew 2:10-11*

January is the season when we celebrate the Epiphany, God in Christ being revealed to the world through the magi's visit. The entire Epiphany scene is a marvelous - ridiculous, even - one: travelers from afar following only the guidance of a star to a strange land, in order to pay homage to an infant who will terrify tyrants and in whom the world will place its hope. The Epiphany story reminds us that it is important for us to witness to God showing up in unexpected places, and to go tell it to others. Like the magi at Epiphany, like the women at the empty tomb, like so many of God's people before us. We're called to pass it on, so others can have little epiphanies in their own faith, too. May your Epiphany be full of sharing the Good News of God that knows no end.

In Peace,

Pastor Eileen (she/her)



## Finance Smart

*by Christine Corson*



Happy New Year! It's a brand new year and time to think about New Year's resolutions! Have you made any resolutions for yourself yet? There are so many ways we can improve ourselves and just one resolution may not be enough for you. I suggest making a list of areas in your life that are important to you. Focus and pray on the items you have listed and you will be on your way to self-improvement and starting out 2024 on a high note.

A smart item to add to your list is financial health. Financial health is a term used to describe the state of one's personal monetary affairs. If your financial health is not good, then you may not feel mentally or physically good. It's very important to keep your bills and other paperwork organized and up to date. If you are struggling to get organized and on track, reach out to a family member, friend or a person you can trust to help you. You will feel so much better and worry less when you have your finances in order, and this also makes you...Finance Smart!!!!

## 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 next forums will be **April 7** and **April 14** when Pastor Alina will present about her Doctor of Ministry research.

## Volunteer English Program Volunteer Opportunity

The Volunteer English Program of Chester County is looking for new board members to support the organization. The mission of the organization is to connect volunteers with adult English language learners to provide one-to-one tutoring and cultural enrichment that empowers immigrants to be successful. If you are interested or want more information, please contact Valerie Rozek at [varozek@relcmedia.org](mailto:varozek@relcmedia.org).



## ***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](https://interfaithphiladelphia.org/events).



## **Kindling Faith 2024**

### ***"BURDEN"***

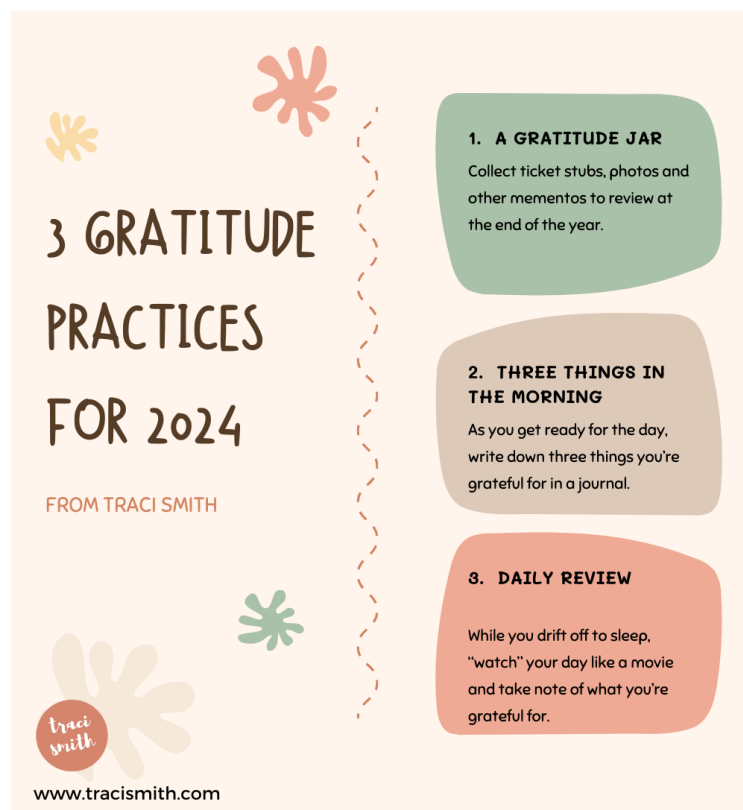
For those who wish to understand more about the challenges Black Americans face from day to day, Kindling Faith with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission presents the short film "Burden" on **January 10** at 7:00 pm.

Free online event for rostered and lay people.

### **ANTHONY RAY HINTON, AUTHOR**

The Nolde Lecture series welcomes author Anthony Ray Hinton to the Philadelphia campus on Monday, **March 18** at 7:00 pm for a free lecture about his experience of living on death row for thirty years. The event will also be livestreamed and his book *And the Sun Does Shine* will be available for purchase and signing.

For more information about these events and to register, please go to:  
[unitedlutheranseminary.edu/calendar](https://unitedlutheranseminary.edu/calendar).





SAVE THE DATE

## Reformation Connect!

Interested in learning more about Reformation and exploring what membership means? Join us for a session on **Sunday, February 4**, 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.

## 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).

## Breakfast Items Collection



During January and February, the Breakfast Club (High School) Sunday School Class is collecting non-perishable breakfast items for Caring for Friends. What is needed:

- Juice box or shelf stable milk/ chocolate milk
- Single oatmeal packets
- Cereal bars/granola bars (high-protein bars are appreciated)
- Tea bags or instant coffee, instant hot cocoa packets
- Fruit cups (with plastic lids or all metal only), fruit/vegetable squeeze pouches (such as Motts or GoGoSqueeze) \*
- Packs of peanut butter crackers or another treat

*\*Please note: Do NOT include fresh food, muffins, TastyKakes (they get mushy), chips, apple sauce with thin aluminum foil tops (they break easily in transit – pouches are best).*

If you would like to contribute, please put your donation in the box in the narthex. Thank you so much for your consideration!

## Sound System Volunteers Needed



We are in need of some additional volunteers to help with our sound system during worship. No experience necessary!

For more information, please reach out to one of the pastors or contact the church office.





# Join a Connection Group

Once again this spring 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 **February 11** and will meet for 7 sessions unless otherwise noted. Sign up online at [relcmedia.org/connectiongroups](http://relcmedia.org/connectiongroups).

All groups are limited to 20 registrations unless otherwise noted. Registration will close on **February 4**.

Group leaders will contact group members with specific information after registration closes.

## **CG 1 – What does it mean to Serve Our Neighbor? The Rich History of Deacons in the Lutheran Church**

Led by Vicar Paula Estornell

**Select Sundays at 9:45 am at Reformation  
(and an afternoon at LSH)**

Learn about Deacons serving our neighbors in our church and in settlement houses across the country that met the needs of urban poor for generations. This group will look at the rich history of service and bridge building, Deaconesses, the Church and the Settlement Movement. Sundays, February 11, 18, and 25 at Reformation at 9:45 and March 3 at Lutheran Settlement House for an afternoon tour. Participants are welcome to participate even if they are unavailable for the tour at LSH.

## **CG 2 – All Aboard!**

Led by Dave Chorney

**Mondays, 7:30 pm at the Chorney Home**

See what collecting trains is all about. Learn the difference between scale and gauge. Discuss the different manufacturers, and countries that made toy trains. Learn the inner workings of the trains and how to keep them running. Run and play with toys that make a "child" smile. To close out the connection group, take a field trip to Lancaster and see the real thing at the Pennsylvania Railroad Museum, ending the day with a meal in a real pullman car. This group is limited to 10 participants.

## **CG 3 – Wake Up, Slow Down, Live Well: Book Discussion and Beginner Pilates**

Led by Kris Hughey

**Mondays, 7:00 pm at Reformation**

Use these weeks of Lent to wake up, slow down, and live well. This group will discuss Barbara Brown Taylor's book, *An Altar in the World*, and do some basic, beginner pilates together. Copies of the book are available at Reformation or from your favorite book seller.

## **CG 4 - Word and Wine**

Led by Pastor Alina Gayeuski and Pat Polilli

**Wednesdays at 5:00 pm at Reformation**

Wine plays a significant role throughout scripture. Join us as we explore these biblical texts, the ancient culture that surrounds them, the processes of wine making, and taste some wine! We will sample some local wines and end our group time with a visit to a winery in the area. *Note: This group will be respectful of all people in their relationship with alcohol. Anyone who does not drink alcohol is welcome to participate, understanding that alcohol will be served. The choice to abstain from drinking will be respected by all in the group.*

## **CG 5 - An Altar in the World**

Led by David McCarrick and Sarah McCarrick

**Thursdays at 7:00 pm at Reformation**

Join others to discuss the 2024 Lent Book, New York Times Bestseller, *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor. In this book, Taylor shares how she learned to find God beyond the church walls by embracing the sacred as a natural part of everyday life and shows us how to discover altars everywhere we go and in nearly everything we do as we learn to live with purpose, pay attention, slow down, and revere the world we live in. Copies of the book are available at Reformation or from your favorite book seller.

## **CG 6 - "One Miner Problem - A Homebrew Adventure"**

Led by Grace Brooks

**Saturdays at 6:00 pm at Reformation**

This group will be an introduction to how to play Dungeons & Dragons 5th Edition (Dungeons & Dragons is a Tabletop Role Play Game). This group is geared to new players, but players of all skill levels are welcome. Dice and materials will be provided. This group is limited to 8 participants.

## **CG 7 - Munch Bunch**

Led by John Grantland

**Saturdays, 12:00 pm at various locations**

Each Saturday, we will meet to enjoy some good eating and fellowship. It could be Burgers, Dogs, Hoagies or Cheese Steaks. Please join us as we enjoy some of the not so healthy foods that DELCO has to offer.



## 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).*



*Some of Reformation's younger members help Pastor Eileen with the Gospel lesson on December 3.*



*St. Nicholas visits Reformation on December 10.*



*Linda Lorino hosted members of Reformation's "Lunch Bunch" at Riddle Village on December 6. Contact Edna Bogert if you would like to join them at their next gathering.*



*Blessing Pastor Alina on December 10 in honor of her 10th Ordination anniversary.*



*Members of the Breakfast Club celebrate at their Christmas party on December 3.*



*Adults and children alike helped decorate for Christmas on December 17.*





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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

### January 2024

**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, January 7

Epiphany  
Unhanging of the Greens

Sunday, January 14

Constitution Forum @ 9:45 am  
(In-person and on Zoom)

Sunday, January 21

Financial Forum @ 9:45 am  
(In-person and on Zoom)

Sunday, January 28

RIC Sunday  
Annual Meeting @ 12 pm  
(in the Sanctuary)