
REFORMATION TIMES

February 2024



Ash Wednesday

We will mark the beginning of our Lent journey on Ash Wednesday with worship at both 12 noon and 7:30 pm. Both services will include the imposition of ashes and communion. The 7:30 pm service will be live streamed. We look forward to you joining us for worship on **February 14**.

Ashes on the Way

Ashes will be distributed on **February 14**, 5:00-6:00 pm under the portico at the front main entrance. Stop by any time during this hour for a brief, 3-4 minute gathering for prayer and the imposition of ashes.

Midweek Lent Soup Supper and Evening Worship

Each Wednesday in Lent following Ash Wednesday, we invite you to gather for a soup supper and fellowship at 6:30 pm in Creighton Hall. The soup supper will be followed by Holden Evening Prayer in the sanctuary at 7:30 pm. The first gathering will be held on **February 21**. You are welcome to join us for both – or come and join us at the start of worship. If you are able to bring soup or bread to the meal, please sign up in the lobby.

Stations in the Street

Prayer Path

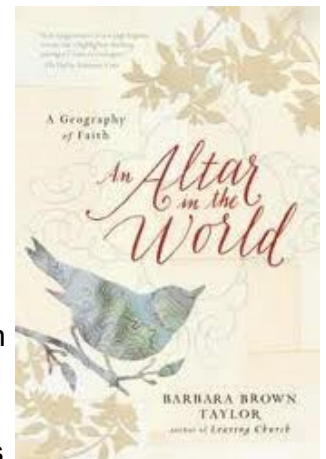
The wood chipped path around the Reformation property will once again host *Stations in the Street* – an art exhibit of the stations of the cross by Scott Erikson. You are welcome to visit the path anytime during Lent – **February 14 to March 31**. Booklets with information about the art and reflections from the artist are at the entrance of the path (in the corner of the East Parking Lot farthest from the gazebo).

Life Abundant - Lent Art Installation

Butterflies are an ancient symbol of new life. This year's art display in the sanctuary will feature a butterfly on our wooden cross and will have an opportunity for everyone to participate in making the butterfly come to life on Easter Sunday!

Lent Book

Read along with us this Lent! Our 2024 Lent Book is *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor. Copies are available at the church, as a Kindle download, or from your favorite book seller. Contact the church office if you need assistance obtaining a copy. Connection Groups for discussion will be offered – see Connection Group page for more details.



*Please see the Lent mailing
or visit relcmedia.org/lent for
more information on these
and other Lent opportunities.*

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!

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:

February 4

February 11

February 25 (*Bear Creek Camp Sunday*)

Children's Choir schedule:

February 11



Council Highlights

The January Council meeting included these highlights:

- Presentation of the 2023 Financial Report and 2024 Proposed Budget – both recommended by Council for action by the congregation at the Annual Meeting
- Updates on Capital Campaign Projects
- Announcement of upcoming forums in preparation for the Annual Meeting

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.

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.



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.

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.

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. Applications for the 2024-2025 academic year may be obtained by downloading from the church website or obtaining a printed copy by contacting the church office. All applications and support materials must be received or postmarked by the **May 1, 2024** deadline.

Complete details can be found in the January Reformation Times. Any questions can be addressed to the following committee members: Ellen Davis Conroy, Evan Davis, Rebecca Funk, Marilyn Gilroy or William Grauer.

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 though **February 11**, and may be placed on the tables in the hallway. Thank you for your support!

Lenten Care Kits

During Lent, zip lock bags, with a list of personal care items to purchase, will be available to fill and return.

These Care Kits will be distributed to:

- men and women at the Phoenix Recovery Houses (personal care items)
- and to children in need, through Cradles to Crayons (socks and underwear)

Bags will be available beginning on Sunday, **March 3**, and should be returned (with the list enclosed) to Reformation by Easter Sunday, **March 31**. Thank you for your support!

Update on Chester Eastside

Chester Eastside Inc. (CEI)

is one of our longtime partner agencies. CEI operates a food pantry every Monday and Wednesday morning throughout the year, for residents of Chester and surrounding areas. During the past few months, CEI has begun serving a hot meal several days a week, and there are plans to expand the hot meal program to three days a week. Additional volunteers are needed in both the food pantry and the hot meal program.



In addition, there has been a great increase in the number of Hispanic people being served at CEI. There is an urgent need for volunteers who are able to communicate in Spanish, as well as a need for legal counsel.

Donations of food, clothing, and household items are accepted and appreciated. If you are able to donate or help in any way, please get in touch with CEI at 610-872-4812 and speak with Tiffany Kea. If you would like more information, please see Linda Bucher.

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 or go to SaintJohnsConcord.com.

Sermon on the Steps During Lent

During the season of Lent, the Sermon on the Steps will be in its regular spot in worship – following the gospel reading. Each week we'll share a children's book that connects to worship that day.

In addition to coming up to join the preacher for the Sermon on the Steps, the children will also be invited up to join the presiding pastor at the time of the Great Thanksgiving at the beginning of the communion liturgy. The children will be invited to stand around the altar with a pastor throughout the communion liturgy and can return to their seats with their families after the Lord's Prayer.

Tuscarora Lutheran Youth Retreat

The Tuscarora Lutheran Youth Retreat, for all youth in grades 6-12, will be held **March 15-17** at Bear Creek Camp. Registration materials and payment of \$175 is due by **Sunday, February 4**. Copies of the registration materials are available in the church lobby. Please speak with Pastor Eileen if you have any questions.

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.

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.

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



- **February 4** – Breakfast Club
- **February 25** - Youth Group 12– 1:30 pm

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.

SAVE THE DATE!

Vacation Bible School

This year's VBS will be held from **July 8 - 12**. Be sure to mark your calendar! More details to come.

Community Action Team Update

The Community Action Team will hold their next bi-monthly meeting on zoom on **March 4** at 6:30 pm.



Please join us if you're interested in getting involved in community activities and service projects! Please notify Linda Bucher if you plan to attend.



BEAR CREEK CAMP

Explore, celebrate & grow in God's creation!

Summer Camp Registration NOW OPEN!

Sign up for a week of camp this summer at Bear Creek! Registration is now open for summer 2024. Register at bearcreekcamp.org.

50 Years of Bear Creek Camp: A Night of Stories and Celebration

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Bear Creek Camp. Join others for a night of celebration on Saturday, **April 20**, in Center Valley. More info and tickets available at bearcreekcamp.org.

Bear Creek Camp Sunday at Reformation

On Sunday, **February 25**, we will welcome camp staff to Reformation for a special camp Sunday. They will share information about camp during worship and lead a special education program. We will collect a special offering to support their campership fund.

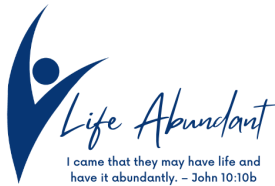
Thrivent Representatives Coming to Reformation

thrivent®

On Sunday, March 10, we will welcome representatives from

Thrivent. They will be available for conversation before and after each service as well as leading an education program at 9:45 am. If you have questions about your particular products with Thrivent or want to learn more about all that Thrivent offers, please plan to join us and speak with a representative. You can learn more at thrivent.com.

Capital Campaign Update



While the completion of these major projects is still more than a year away, we have already begun some preparatory work on our property. On the future

pavilion site, dirt has been added to bring that area up to grade. In addition to preparing for the pavilion, it has helped with the flooding we have experienced in that area for years! Additionally, a new fence, that replaced overgrown bushes, has been built to cover the air conditioning units along the east side of the building. This fence will also eventually serve as the backdrop for the reflection garden. Thank you to Dave Chorney and our landscaper, Vince Walsh, for managing and completing these projects! Learn more about all of the projects at relcmedia.org/lifeabundant.



Sound System Volunteers Needed

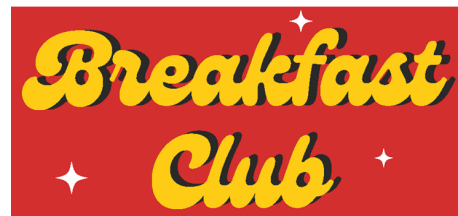


We are in need of some additional volunteers to help with our sound system during worship.

No experience necessary!

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

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!

Kindling Faith 2024

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.

Recycle Old Clothes



Reformation has
partnered with
ACR Trading, a

local company that collects old clothes and shoes and recycles them. We have a collection bin at the west end of the building near the dumpsters. The following items are accepted: wearable clothing, shoes, belts, purses, linens, blankets and stuffed animals. All items must be clean and dry and placed in a tied plastic bag. Donations can be left in the bin at your convenience.

SAVE THE DATE!

Paper Shredding Event

Reformation's Eco Ministry group is sponsoring a paper shredding event on Saturday, **April 6** from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. This event is free and open to all. Be sure to mark your calendar!

WINTER WALK

STEP OUTSIDE THIS WINTER

The Eco Ministry invites you to use this simple outline to walk, reflect, and pray this winter.



SEARCH FOR SNOWFLAKES

Every snowflake has a unique design. They remind us of how God has created each of us with our own unique design. Use this time outside to look for the gifts of winter in creation.

READ SCRIPTURE

Many passages of the Bible discuss the beauty of God's work in creation. Read Psalm 148 before and after your walk. What stands out to you? Talk or write about your thoughts on the passage.



CAPTURE IMAGES

Capture images of your time outside. Use them as a devotional practice. Take photos, draw or write what you see. Look for where you see God at work in creation.



SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE

Invite others on your walk. Share photos from your walk with family and friends (or in the Reformation Facebook group!). Talk about the scripture you read and what stands out to you, where you noticed the passage come to life outside. Share your highlights with each other.



LEARN MORE

Our Eco Ministry has compiled a number of resources to help you learn and act for the care of creation. Join us at relcmmedia.org/ecojustice.

REFORMATION ECO MINISTRY TEAM

RELCMEDIA.ORG/ECO-MINISTRY
RELCMEDIA.ORG/ECOJUSTICE



The saying is sure: whoever aspires to the office of bishop desires a noble task. – 1 Timothy 3:1

Dear Reformation,

In May, our synod will be electing a new bishop. Bishop Patricia Davenport has served our synod since her election in 2018 and is completing her six-year term. She will be retiring and not seeking re-election. As such, our synod is in a time of discernment about the next leader to be called to this role.

The synod has prepared a mission profile and there will soon be a time of pre-identifying candidates for the role.

The bishop election will happen at the Synod Assembly on May 3 and 4. Representatives from all synod congregations and clergy will gather for the assembly and will have vote. There will be several rounds of balloting and opportunities for candidates to address the assembly.

I invite you to learn more about this process, review the synod's mission profile, listen to a message from the Synod's Vice President, and pray for this time of discernment and transition in the bishop's office. You can find out more at anytime by visiting the synod's page for the bishop election: ministrylink.org/2024-bishop-election.

Let us pray for the church and give thanks for leaders in all times and places!

Pastor Alina



Finance Smart

by Christine Corson



This month, I wanted to share with you some top frauds and scams. You probably have already encountered some of these or know a family member who has experienced them. You may even have a few to add to this list.

- Internet connection fraud/tech repair
- Sweetheart scam
- Investment scam
- Front door fraud
- Online shopping sites
- Charity solicitations
- Government/banking impersonators
- Healthcare scams
- Sweepstakes scams
- Grandparent scam
- Text messages from USPS or humanitarian crises
- Stolen checks

If you are unaware of any of these scams, I urge you to do some online research so you are not a victim. Also, if you would like to file a complaint about a particular scam you received, go to <https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/submit-a-complaint/scams-complaint/>.

Remember!!! Be **Finance Smart** by always staying vigilant and one step ahead of scammers. Never engage in conversation or give out any personal information to strangers.

(Special thanks to Marilyn Gilroy for providing the list of top frauds and scams.)

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.



Seen Around Reformation

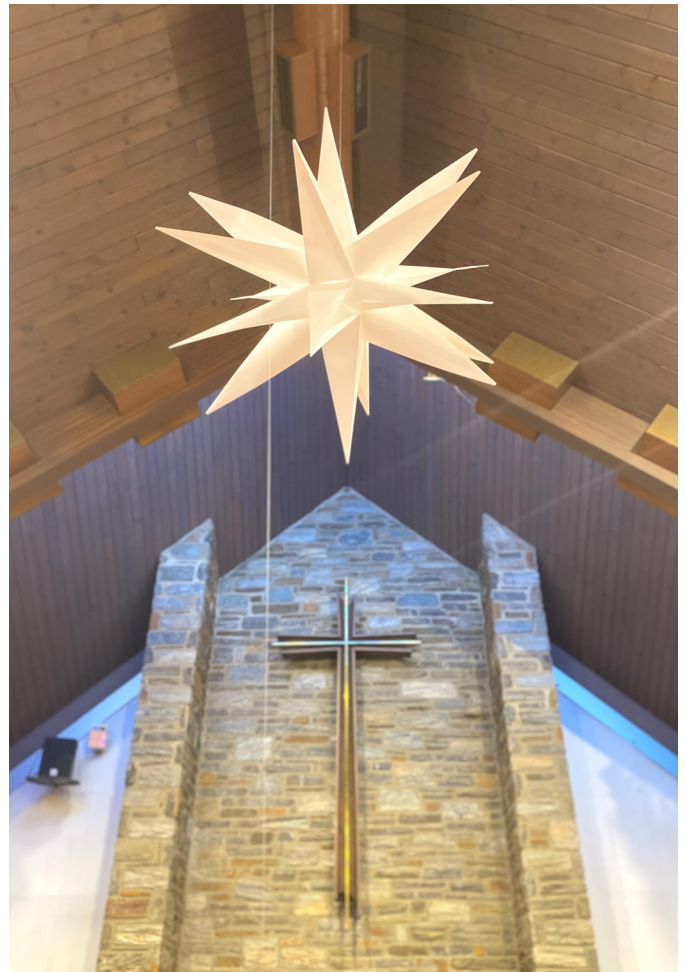
There is always so much to see at Reformation. We thank you for sharing your photos with us! *Please remember to send your photos of recent events to: newsletter@relcmedia.org.*



Members of the Children's Choir perform during worship on December 17.



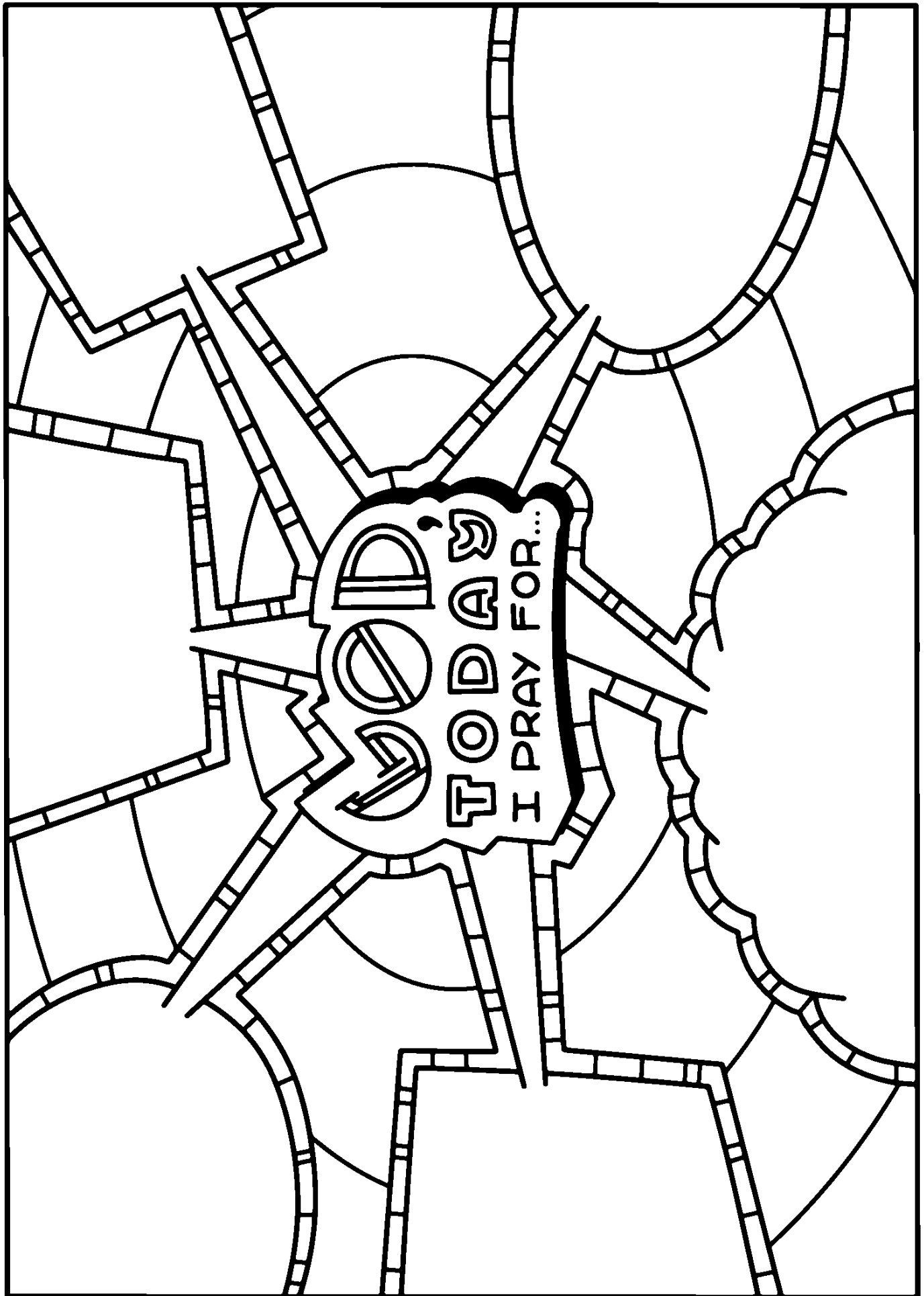
Pastor Eileen and Baby Luca enjoying the Sermon on the Steps on December 31.



This beautiful star was hung in the sanctuary in celebration of the Epiphany on January 7.



Pastor Alina joined members of Reformation's "Lunch Bunch" at Lima Estates on January 4. Contact Edna Bogert if you would like to join them at their next gathering.



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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

February 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, February 4

Ref Connect

Wednesday, February 14

Ash Wednesday

12 noon and 7:30 pm services

Sunday, February 25

Bear Creek Camp Sunday