REFORMATION TIMES

April 2024

Church Directory Updates Wanted!



We are planning to print updated hard copies of our church directory in June 2024, but we need your help to do so! Please review your current listing and make any updates to your information and/or photo as needed.

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:

- Download the app "Instant Church Directory" from the App Store, Google Play or Kindle Fire.
 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.
- 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.

ECO Sunday



Join us on Sunday, **April 21**, for a special Eco Sunday celebration! Every year, on the Sunday closest to Earth Day, our Eco Ministry Team hosts a special Sunday program. Activities for all ages will be

led by our Eco Team during the Education Hour. Stop by the special Eco Ministry display in the lobby to learn more about the ministry and enjoy some Fair Trade Chocolate!

mini Masters



This year we are excited to announce Reformation's second mini MASTERS! In this unique event, our youth will be creating an indoor mini-golf course at Reformation. The golf event, scheduled for Saturday, **April 27**, will run from 3:00 – 6:00 pm. All are welcome to come and play! (A few might even find themselves wearing the green jacket!) Admission is \$10 per adult and \$5 per child.

This event helps us to raise funds to send six of our youth members and 3 adult leaders to this summer's ELCA youth gathering in New Orleans. Contributions can be made online or by check. You can mail your form and check to the office or put it in the offering plate on Sunday. Thank you for your support and encouragement of our youth!



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

1 Corinthians 12:26

Rowan Caruso, Harper Ferentz, Bryson Lesser and Patrick Semo received their Bibles during worship on March 10.

Welcome Lisa McHugh, who joined Reformation on March 10.

Welcome Ken Rowland and the McGugan Family (Frank, Michele, Alex and Erin), who joined Reformation on March 17.

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:

April 7 April 14 April 21 - *ECO Sunday* April 28

Children's Choir schedule: April 14

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.

Finance Smart

by Christine Corson

We are all aware that financial scams continue to rise and



thieves are becoming craftier by the day; therefore, I thought it would be beneficial to share with you a personal experience of being scammed. A few months ago, a teller at my husband's bank gave him a fake \$100 bill when he had his paycheck cashed. Unaware, he gave me the cash to deposit to our shared account at a different bank. When I deposited the cash into the onsite ATM, one of the bills was rejected a few times, so I brought it to a teller who immediately inspected it and they informed me that it was counterfeit. And that quickly, we were out \$100! My husband informed his co-workers who use that bank for check cashing, but unfortunately soon after, someone else became a victim.

I wanted to share our story with as many people as possible so you won't be a victim to this terrible scam. If you receive cash from a financial institution, do not leave the premises until you check the bills because if you leave, they have no proof you received the counterfeit bill from them. And if you do happen to get a fake bill, it's illegal to try to pass it off to another establishment or person. This can happen to anyone when you least expect it. Protect your hard earned money! Remember to always check your cash and you will be...*Finance Smart!!!*

REFORMATION TIMES Published Monthly by Reformation Lutheran Church

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

<u>Congregation Council and Officers</u> 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



April 7 – Breakfast Club

SAVE THE DATE! Vacation Bible School



This year's VBS will be held from **July 8 - 12**. Be sure to mark your calendar! For more details, please visit myvbs.org/relcmedia or reach out to Pastor Eileen.

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.

End Period Poverty



Please join LAMPA (Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in PA) in supporting a measure to end period poverty in PA through their postcard campaign! Governor Shapiro has

included \$3 million dollars for feminine hygiene products in public schools in his proposed budget. Addressing this issue is an important step in addressing educational, gender, and economic equity.

Throughout the month of April up until **May 5**, postcards will be available in the lobby. Please choose a postcard, use the QR code to find your legislator and write their name and address on the right side of the postcard. Write your name and address on the left side , and place it in the basket for completed postcards. Postcards will be mailed to LAMPA, who will then deliver them to legislators during May and June. Thank you for your support!



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.

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** 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.

Christ In Our Home Booklets

The April/May/June 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.

Update on Chester Eastside



Chester Eastside Inc. (CEI) has been operating a long time food pantry and meal program, and they have recently expanded the hot meal program to Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

CEI is looking for groups to commit to coming once a month to serve the meal. Their most pressing need is for Fridays, but they need people for Tuesdays and Thursdays as well. It would mean arriving about 9:45 am, setting up, serving from 11 am - 12:30 pm, then cleaning up. You would be at CEI from approximately 9:45 am to 12:45 pm. We are not responsible for bringing anything, as the meal is catered. There is some salad and dessert prep at CEI before the meal is served. We would need at least 4 people who could commit to serving once a month, and we would commit to the same day each month, (such as the first Friday, the second Tuesday, etc.) depending on what day works best for everyone who is interested.

If there are 4 people who are interested and available at the same time, we could be a team to cover one meal each month. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Linda Bucher at 610-566-0862, or lindabucher1@verizon.net.

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!

Lutheran Day at the Capitol

Join the group from Reformation heading to Harrisburg on **May 9** as we participate in a day of learning and advocacy sponsored by Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of Pennsylvania. Contact Pastor Eileen by **April 11** for registration details.

Taizé Prayer at St Raphaela Retreat Center



St. Raphaela Retreat Center in Haverford hosts monthly Taizé prayer gatherings. The practice of contemplative prayer opens us to encounter and to be formed by this love that is poured out. Taizé worship is a contemplative communal prayer service that consists of meditative singing, Scripture reading, and periods of silence in order to reach a contemplative state. Taizé is an international movement, inspired by an ecumenical interspiritual community in France.

Date: 2nd Wednesday of each month

Time: 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM

There is no cost for this program. If you have any questions or would like more information, please call 610-642-5715, email info@straphaelacenter.org or visit straphaelacenter.org/taize-prayer.

World Labyrinth Day Celebrations at Reformation



Reformation Lutheran Church welcomes you to visit and participate in a practice to commemorate World Labyrinth Day and be part of walking for peace around the globe at two events.

Saturday, May 4, from 12 - 3:00 pm

This activity will be practiced across all continents at 1:00 pm local time. The goal is to walk at "1:00 as One". This event will be an open house. Come at a time that is convenient for you between 12:00 and 3:00 pm.

<u>Sunday, May 5, at 9:45 am</u>

Anyone interested in practicing the meditative prayerful walk please join us between the services. For more information please visit relcmedia.org/labyrinth.

All are welcome to participate in this peaceful meditative walking practice.

Capital Campaign Update



Thank you for your continued generosity and support of our Capital Campaign and the way that your gifts are helping us transform our property

for the future of our ministry! Some updates on the progress of projects are below:

<u>Fire Pit</u>: This Spring, Aidan Reilley, from Troop 430 at Reformation, will be installing a permanent fire pit in the east lawn – in the space between the gazebo and the fence bordering the playground – as his Eagle Scout project. A fire pit has been a smaller project as part of our full master landscape plan, so we are excited to get one step closer and support Aidan in his pursuits!

<u>Pavilion</u>: A deposit has been placed with Pencroft (the same company that we worked with for the Gazebo). We are waiting on the receipt of the engineering prints and seeking quotes for the additional work that needs to be done for that project. We do not yet have a timeline to share on the completion of this project.

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 **April 2** from 9:00 am - 11:00 am. There is a \$40 fee for materials. For more information or to register, please call 610-918-8222 or visit volunteerenglish.org.

Young Adults Group



On **April 5** at 8:00 pm, Reformation is hosting a Young Adults group in the ROCK Room along with young adults from St. Matt's in

Springfield. Please reach out to Pastor Eileen for more information.

Interfaith Book Trail for Elementary School Youth



Become an interfaith traveler! The Interfaith Book Trail is a 3-session program designed to acquaint children with each other's faith

traditions. Students will participate in hands-on activities and build a community that celebrates our neighbors!

April 7

2-3:30 pm Baha'i Tradition (session will be held at Reformation Lutheran Church)

April 14

2-3:30 pm Campbell AME Church in Media

April 21

2-3:30 pm Swarthmore College Interfaith Center

Questions? Contact Marilyn Berberich at 610-517-5261 or mjberb@aol.com.

Eco Updates for April



Get ready for a month of environmental fun in April!! First, and always the best, is our Rose Tree Road clean-up, Saturday, **April 13**

from 10 - 11 am. Come out and enjoy an hour of getting some fresh air while cleaning up our little stretch of Rose Tree Road. Second, ECO Sunday is **April 21** during Sunday School. Mark your calendar and look for more details to come your way.





Dr. Pamela "Pam" Poe

I am about to earn my latest (online) graduate degree from Columbia University in Narrative Medicine. For some reason, I still tell people I'm a church musician, but I am trying to "retire" from church music. I've served all kinds of denominations, including several Lutheran churches since my first paid gig in October 1970. I've been a college professor for 22 years now, teaching a variety of communication courses at a total of 14 universities! I am currently teaching at Drexel University. I have been married for 44 years now to my husband, Randy. We have two daughters with two wonderful husbands and three grandkids extraordinaire, ages 10, 7 and almost 2. I visited Reformation in December 2023, 22 years after my first visit in 2001! Back then, I immediately began a series of church music gigs, but now I am free on Sunday mornings and Reformation is very welcoming (with great music, too)!

Ken Rowland

I grew up in Manayunk, PA. I recently moved to Media from Northeast Philadelphia. I am retired from PECO, and when I worked I was active in the Institute of Internal Auditors. At the time of my retirement, I was President of the Institute. I have put a lot of work in the church - I was a member of Council and served many years as Council President and Treasurer. I am joining Reformation as my daughter, Kristin Gress is a member. I am looking forward to being a member as well!







Lisa McHugh

I grew up in Broomall and currently live in the community of Marple Woods. I have been an RN for the past 33 year and have worked in many areas including hospice, home health care, geriatrics and oncology. I currently work at Granite Farms Estates as a case manager for the home service department. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my son and family. I also enjoy knitting, watching movies and walking. Reformation aligns with my beliefs and the service opportunities are what I have been looking for as I enjoy helping others in any way that I am able.

The McGugan Family

We are a co-parenting family from Aston, where we have lived since 2010. Michele works from home as an IT Consultant. Frank works hybrid for a mail amchine company. Erin works in the deli at Wegman's and Alex is a full-time student.

We have five pets between our two houses. As a family we enjoy bowling, we like to celebrate holidays and birthdays and go to church together. We want to join Reformation because we finally found a church we all feel comfortable with after coming from different religious backgrounds. Everyone here is so nice! We love the message we get from the sermons each week and the sense of community as well.



Sip & Shop



Join the Domestic Abuse Project of Delaware County (DAP) on Thursday, April 18 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm for an opportunity to network with other professionals and shop for a cause at Thrift &

Thrive, DAP's thrift store located in Pilgrim Gardens Shopping Center in Drexel Hill. For entry to the event, please donate one or more pieces of new or gently loved clothing, handbags, shoes, housewares or décor. Scan the QR code below to register as space is limited.

If you have any questions, please email MLivingstone@dapdc.org.



ELCA and Social Justice

Are you interested in learning more about what the ELCA does in

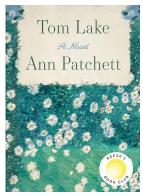
the world to advocate for social justice? Are you interested in learning how you can help in to advocate? There are two offices of the ELCA working on these issues:

The ELCA Washington Office - "The ELCA Washington Office (D.C.) fulfills the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's witness for social justice on domestic and foreign policy issues facing the nation, and through it, the world." You can learn more about what the ELCA Washington Office does, and sign up for "Advocacy Alerts", so that you will be notified about issues and how you can help at : elca.org/ Our-Work/Publicly-Engaged-Church/Advocacy.

LAMPA (Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in PA) -

LAMPA is the state office working on advocacy issues. You can learn more at lutheranadvocacypa.org. You can sign up for advocacy alerts from LAMPA at lutheranadvocacypa.org/about/advocacy-inthe-elca.

Library Book Club News



Calling all book lovers! We look forward to our next **Reformation Library Book** Club selection, Tom Lake by noted author Ann Patchett. We will meet on Tuesday, April 16 at 7:00 pm by Zoom. Please contact Laura Reiter at longreiter@gmail for more information.

More about Tom Lake from www.annpatchett.com/books:

In this beautiful and moving novel about family, love, and growing up, Ann Patchett once again proves herself one of America's finest writers.

In the spring of 2020, Lara's three daughters return to the family's orchard in Northern Michigan. While picking cherries, they beg their mother to tell them the story of Peter Duke, a famous actor with whom she shared both a stage and a romance years before at a theater company called Tom Lake. As Lara recalls the past, her daughters examine their own lives and relationship with their mother, and are forced to reconsider the world and everything they thought they knew.

Tom Lake is a meditation on youthful love, married love, and the lives parents have led before their children were born. Both hopeful and elegiac, it explores what it means to be happy even when the world is falling apart. As in all of her novels, Ann Patchett combines compelling narrative artistry with piercing insights into family dynamics. The result is a rich and luminous story, told with profound intelligence and emotional subtlety, that demonstrates once again why she is one of the most revered and acclaimed literary talents working today.

Reformation Facebook Group



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



2024 Dare to Understand Awards Ceremony

Join us on June 6 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral (or via livestream on YouTube) to celebrate, as we gather the youth, leaders, and community partners who have been the heart and soul of our work. At this 20th Anniversary celebration, we are proud to present our 2024 Dare to Understand® Awards to four individuals who have led Interfaith Philadelphia and committed vital and invaluable efforts and passion to this work. We will also celebrate the nearly 1000 alumni of our Walking the Walk Youth Initiative, along with the group leaders, parents, mentors, congregations, and service partners, who have been central to living our vision, and whose dreams will shape the future of interfaith work. For more information, please contact Sara Zebovitz at ssz@interfaithphiladelphia.org or 215-222-1012 x5 or visit interfaithphiladelphia.org/2024dtu-awards.

Graduate Info Needed

Information is needed for our students graduating from high school! Please send the following for your graduating senior to pastoreileen@relcmedia.org by May 19.

- 1. Name
- 2. School they are graduating from
- 3. Current photo



4. Baby photo

Graduates will be celebrated at both worship services on **June 2**.



The March Council meeting included these highlights:

- Updates on Capital Campaign projects and approval of an Eagle Scout project to install a permanent fire pit area on the east lawn.
- Approval of new members joining Reformation.
- Approval of Financial Policies.
- Approval of a sponsorship for the Lutheran Settlement House's annual Powerful Together event.

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!

Lutheran Night at the Phillies

Join Lutheran congregations from across the synod for Lutheran Night at the Phillies on **May 31** at 6:40 PM. Tickets are \$28/person and include a donation to SEPA Synod Youth programs. Make checks out to Reformation with memo "Phillies" or pay through Venmo @relcmedia. Contact Megan Perry at megansperry2003@gmail.com or Jen Troutman at jtroutman2@yahoo.com to secure a spot by **May 8** or scan the QR code below:





Dear Reformation,

It is a joy to share with you all that I have successfully defended my doctoral thesis and am preparing to graduate with my Doctor of Ministry on May 18! (Joining me in the United Lutheran Seminary Class of 2024 is my husband, Pastor Daniel Smith, earning his Master of Sacred Theology and our Deacon Intern, Vicar Paula Estornell, earning her Master of Arts in Ministerial Leadership.)

I am grateful for all of your support and encouragement over the past several years as I completed my coursework and my thesis. Your love and cheers have made this accomplishment all the more wonderful!

On April 7 and 14, I will be leading a two-part presentation during the education hour at 9:45 am to share my research. (You are welcome to join for just one if you can't make both!) I will be sharing highlights from my thesis, *Beyond the Stained Glass Ceiling: Freeing Women Clergy from the Patriarchy to Thrive in Ministry.* My project explores the challenges that women clergy continue to disproportionately encounter despite more than a half-decade of the right for women to be ordained in our own tradition. It includes first-person accounts from women clergy around the country from the largest Protestant traditions in the U.S.

Thank you again for all your love and support!

Pastor Alina Gayeuski



Trauma Informed Care Workshops

23 Mar	Violence and Trauma Campbell AME Church of Media 33 W. 3 rd Street Media, PA 19063
27 April	Racial Trauma Campbell AME Church of Media 33 W. 3 rd Street Media, PA 19063 Coretta Scott King Memorial
11 May	Empathy and Relationships Pt. 1 Reformation Lutheran Church 102 W. Rose Tree Road Media, PA 19063
15 June	Empathy and Relationships Pt. 2 Reformation Lutheran Church 102 W. Rose Tree Road Media, PA 19063
Reformation Workshop Series	
Saturday Mornings: 9 - 9:15 am arrival (Breakfast Provided) 9:15 - 10 am Book Study: Stand Your Ground 10 - 10:30 am Workshop Gathering 10:30 - 11 am Workshop	

11:30 am Lunch You're invited to register for these events at Campbell AME Church of Media and Reformation. If you have any questions, please contact Marilyn Berberich. To register, go to form.jotform.com/240207426520142.

10:30 – 11 am Workshop

Holiday Offering Envelopes

Did you know that our Holiday Offering envelopes help Reformation live out our generosity every day? All gifts received



through any special holiday envelope or given online and designated as holiday offering is used completely for benevolence.

This fund enables us to match other special offerings and make our gifts go twice as far and allows our Council to respond quickly to other needs in the community. In 2023, over \$27,000 moved through our Holiday Offering fund and out into the community and the world.

Please remember to use these special envelopes and help our reach go further! Thank you for the ways you continue to live out the generosity of God's love in this world!



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.*



Joe Mirarchi teaches Confirmation students and their mentors about David and Goliath using "armor" and a slingshot on February 11.



Winners of the Youth Group Inaugural Olympics on Sunday, February 25.



The Pastors and helpers during worship on March 3.



Members of the "Lunch Bunch" celebrating St. Patrick's Day a little early at The Grog in Bryn Mawr on March 7. Their next outing will be on April 4 at Fava Ristorante Italiano in Glen Mills. Reach out to Patty Boccella if you would like to attend!



Andrew Marcus shares a lesson on "The Light of the World - God Loves Us" with some of our Sunday School students on March 10.



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

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Label

REFORMATION TIMES April 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. Saturday, April 6

Paper Shredding Event 9:00 - 11:00 am

Saturday, April 13

Rose Tree Road Clean Up 10:00 - 11:00 am

Sunday, April 21

ECO Sunday

Saturday, April 27

Mini Masters 3:00 - 6:00 pm