

REFORMATION TIMES

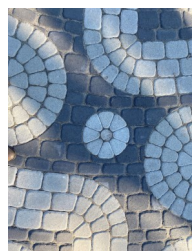
May 2024

Summer Worship Schedule

WORSHIP SCHEDULE
SUMMER

Please note that our summer worship schedule begins on Sunday, **May 26** and will continue through Sunday, **September 1**. Summer worship times are 8:30 am and 10:00 am.

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.

Sunday, May 5, at 9:45 am

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.

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.

Graduate Info Needed

Information is needed for our graduates! Please send the following for your graduate to pastoreileen@relcmedia.org by **May 19**.



1. Name
2. School they are graduating from
3. Current photo (*high school graduates only*)
4. Baby photo (*high school graduates only*)

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

Spirit Day



On **June 2**, we invite you to show your school spirit by wearing apparel from any school to worship!

Ascension Day Worship

Join the congregations of the SEPA Synod's Delaware Conference for Ascension Day worship on Thursday, **May 9** at St. Mark Lutheran Church, Clifton Heights, at 7:00 pm. The Rev. Britta Carlson, Interim Graduate School Director at United Lutheran Seminary will be the preacher.

Car Wash

On **May 18** from 1 pm - 3 pm, our Youth Group will be offering a drive-in community car wash. Come get your car washed for \$10 (and for an extra \$5, you can get a trash cleanout of the interior!) All proceeds support the ELCA Youth Gathering Trip.





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

1 Corinthians 12:26

Rhys Alexander Smicker, son of Zach Smicker and Jackie Armstrong, was baptized on **April 7**.

Harper Ferentz received her first communion on **April 7**.

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:

- May 5
- May 12
- May 19

Children's Choir schedule:

- May 5

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,

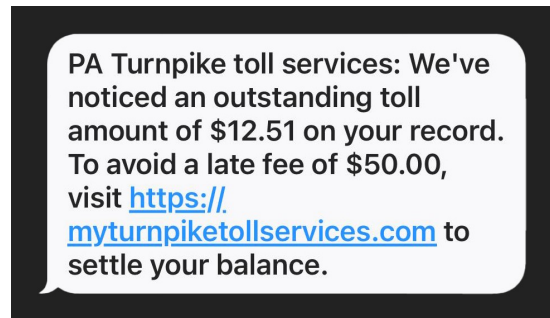
please reach out to one of the pastors or contact the church office.

Finance Smart

by Christine Corson



I wanted to get the word out about a new phishing scam in Pennsylvania. If you are a PA Turnpike E-ZPass customer, listen up! You may or may not have heard that some PA Turnpike E-ZPass customers are receiving text messages that they owe an outstanding toll balance on their account and are warned if they do not pay the balance owed, they will need to pay a \$50 late fee. Here is an example of the text:



This is a scam! Do not click on the link and fall victim! If you would like more info, here is the link to the scam alert:
www.paturnpike.com/news/details/2024/04/07/pa-turnpike-alerts-e-zpass-users-of-phishing-scam. If you get a text or email that resembles this one, ignore and delete it 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

Congregation Council and Officers

John Grantland, *President*; Debbie Conley, *Vice President*; Laura Reiter, *Secretary*; Marian Filtz, *Treasurer*, Jamie Anderson, Madison Benzing, Kristen Forster, Eric Hathaway, Gabby Parker, Kaylee Troutman, Pastor Alina Gayeuski and Pastor Eileen Ruppel-Doan.

Upcoming Youth Events



- **May 5** – Breakfast Club
- **May 18** – Car Wash Fundraiser
1:00 pm
- **May 19** – Youth Gathering Meeting

Celebrate Vicar Paula!

Join us on Sunday, June 2, for a celebration as Vicar Paula concludes her time with us as our Deacon Intern. Both services will include a blessing and sending as well as a special reception in the lobby. Everyone is welcome to bring a card and share a message of thanks and blessing!

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!



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.

May Play Day



Join us on Saturday, **May 4**, at BCC for an open house day of fun! Explore camp, meet staff, boat, hike, craft, and fellowship with our camp community. Cookout lunch is freely offered to all! Pre-registration is appreciated, but not required. For more information, please visit bearcreekcamp.org.

Lenten Care Kit Totals

We collected 58 care kits for the following groups:

Cradles to Crayons
- 17 kits

Phoenix Recovery Houses
- 41 kits

Thank you, Reformation, for your generosity!

Thank You!

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!

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.

Rose Tree Road Clean-Up Success!

The Eco Ministry Committee would like to thank the Rose Tree Road clean-up crew from April 13. The following people deserve a big "Thank You!": First timers Vicar Paula and John Grantland, regulars Kris and Dick Hughey, Adam and Evie Fernandez, Andy Sr. and Andy Jr. along with Lexi Benzing, Carol Mueller and John Berberich. A total of 12 bags of roadside trash were picked up. I am sure our neighbors on Rose Tree Road appreciate our efforts on a very windy Saturday!

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.

Grief and Loss Group

Grief and Loss Group

 **GRACE**
Lutheran Church

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

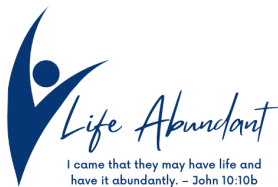
Wednesdays, 7-8 pm

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.

Capital Campaign Update



Thank you for your continued generosity and support of the Capital Campaign! We are actively receiving estimates for the roofing

work. Many thanks to Dave Chorney for meeting with each contractor and to Dick Hughey for helping review estimates. We do not yet have a timeline for the roof work to begin. The Eagle Scout project to install a permanent fire pit should be completed by the end of May - just in time for summer gatherings around the fire! If you have any questions about the campaign projects, talk with one of the pastors.

Love Concert!



Community Love Concert!

May 19, 3:00pm

In Honor and Memory of Dewey Oriente

A free will offering will be taken in memory and honor of Dewey Oriente for his husband Tony Oriente to care for unexpected financial expenses.

Invite Neighbors and Friends to Sing and Attend

Rehearsal dates on reverse.
All are welcome to join in singing regardless of faith, race, sexuality, or gender!

Questions? holytrinity927music@gmail.com or 610-874-8652

927 S Providence Road, Wallingford, PA
Pastor, Jenn Casey | Music Director, Reid Simmons

You are invited by Holy Trinity to sing or attend!
For more information, please call 610-874-8652 or email: HolyTrinity927music@gmail.com

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:

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.
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.

Reformation Facebook Group



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

SAVE THE DATE

Delaware Valley Interfaith Gospel Choir

The Delaware Valley Interfaith Gospel Choir is planning its 2024 community concert for Saturday, **October 5**. We hope you will sing with us! As in the past, singers will attend four workshops led by Music Director LaTisha Mays of Second Baptist Church in Media. (Workshops will be held on 9/23, 9/26, 9/30 and 10/3 from 7-9 p.m.). No auditions or church affiliations are necessary. The Choir is free and open to everyone ages 18 and up, who would like to perform in the October concert.

Please mark your calendar for this joyous community event. Questions?
Email: Interfaithchoir@firstchurchmedia.org.

ELCA and Social Justice



ELCA

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 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-in-the-elca.



Council Highlights

The April Council meeting included these highlights:

- Approval of voting members for synod assembly.
- Approval of a sponsorship for the KenCrest Taste the Possibilities event.
- Approval of Endowment New Program funds for the partnership with Grace Lutheran, Broomall.

Message from John Grantland

My time as Council President will come to an end this month. The last two years have been an exciting time at Reformation. We all walked together during a period of transition. Our Congregation is truly blessed to have excellent clergy leading us. I can never say enough about the staff and all the energy they bring. The power of the teamwork never ceases to amaze me. I also appreciate all the guidance from both the Executive Team and the Council. Our clergy has really grown during this time. Pastor Alina has worked really hard on including sports metaphors. Pastor Eileen did an excellent job spraying my hair green and singing the Eagles Fight Song. We have fun!! We will have a new council president who will lead us into our 75th anniversary celebration. We will certainly throw a great party for that!!! My Lenten journey included participation in the book club led by Kris Hughey. When we discussed the section dealing with vocation, I stated "Council President is the BEST JOB I HAVE EVER HAD." You have given me so much and I can never thank you enough.

God Bless You!

John C. Grantland

LIRS is Now Global Refuge



Global Refuge

In Reformation's continued support for immigrants and

refugees around the world, we want to make you aware of the rebranding of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) as "Global Refuge". The decision to rebrand as Global Refuge is rooted in the growing worldwide need for compassion and support. With millions of people displaced by war, famine, climate change, persecution, and more, our mission of providing the "long welcome" has become more crucial than ever. The accompanying growth in the demand for our essential, expanded suite of services has sparked the need to identify ourselves ever more clearly and create a bigger table of supporters. For more information, visit globalrefuge.org.

Shred Event Impact

ProShred Security, the company that handled our shred event on **April 6**, gave us the following summary of how our event impacted the environment. Although we got much more participation from the community than we anticipated - and had to shut down early - these results make it all worthwhile!

- Trees saved: **71**
- Energy saved: **16,800 kWh**
- Landfill space saved: **12.60 cu. yds**
- Water saved: **29,400 gallons**

Pentecost Party



Join us to celebrate Pentecost! On **May 19** we invite you to wear **red** to worship and visit the interactive stations around the building to celebrate the Holy Spirit!

Thrivent Choice Dollars

thrivent[®]

Do you have products through Thrivent? Some of their financial

products come with the benefit of Choice Dollars that can be directed to the nonprofit of your choice! These funds need to be designated annually to that nonprofit. Reformation is eligible to receive these choice dollars. This money is used for special projects at the church. Please remember to make your Choice Dollar elections and connect with your Thrivent Representative if you have any questions!

Pew Projects are Back!

During the season of Easter, at the end of the Sermon on the Steps, children will receive a Pew Project bag. The Pew Project bags will include simple craft items and instructions to make a project related to the day's scripture texts. Children are invited to keep everything in the bag, but we ask that the bags be returned at the end of worship so that they can be used for the next week's Pew Projects.

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!

For more information, please contact Andrea in the church office at rlc@relcmedia.org.



FROM THE VICAR

Romans 16:1–2. The apostle Paul writes:
“I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church in Cenchreae. I ask you to ... give her any help she may need from you,”

Phoebe is the first person to be named a Deacon in the Bible. *Deacon* comes from the Greek word *Diakonos* which translates to— one who engages in humble service.

In recognizing Phoebe’s role in the church and asking the people to help her, Paul was asking for a radical welcome. RELC has graciously welcomed this aspiring Deacon, as if Paul had written this appeal to you. You invited me in, allowed me to participate and assist you with worship, join you in prayer, in church committees, women’s gatherings, at staff and council meetings, and in outreach to many of your ministry partners. I’ve come to love this active, friendly, wise and spiritual congregation.

Pastor Alina and Eileen’s leadership has been a glory to be a part of. The wisdom, love and energy they pour into their call as Pastors is exemplary. They are true role models and I’ve appreciated their cheerful and patient guidance. I’ve also appreciated the Internship Committee members, Pat, Talitha, Joyce, Caroline, and Linda for their time and friendship, and for steering me in right directions.

Finally, I’m grateful for the top notch leadership and support of the Reformation Staff whose expertise in administration, finance and music has been most impressive.

Deacons are commissioned to be the bridge between the church and the world but it takes a village – congregants, pastors and staff, to spread God’s goodness out across our communities.

Best of luck in all your endeavors.
 May the Holy Spirit bless and keep you.

Vicar Paula

Trauma Informed Care Workshops

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



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

\$15 donation suggested

You're invited to register for these events at Reformation. If you have any questions, please contact Marilyn Berberich. To register, go to form.jotform.com/240207426520142.

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 are 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!



Interfaith Philadelphia

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.

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:



United Lutheran Seminary
UNIFYING, LEARNING, SERVING

Kindling Faith Summer Events

Theological Learning with Adults featuring Dr. Allison deForest, Professor of New

Testament: July 14 – 19. Many of us are very used to encountering texts from Paul's 1st and 2nd Letters to the church in Corinth in the bits offered in the Lectionary on Sunday mornings. Some of these bits are favorites – some of Paul's greatest hits – others seem deeply troubling and contradictory. During this week, we will examine the biblical books 1 & 2 Corinthians as a whole, taking into account the fact that they are part of a larger set of communications between Paul and the church that he founded in Corinth. The hope is that this holistic approach will deepen our understanding of what each individual passage says and means.

To register for this and other events, please visit unitedlutheranseminary.edu/calendar.

May Eco Tip

Are you getting ready to travel this summer and fall? You may want to consider Ecotourism.



According to The International Ecotourism Society, Ecotourism is now defined as “responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment, sustains the well-being of the local people, and involves interpretation and education” (TIES, 2015). Ecotourism is about uniting conservation, communities and sustainable travel and helps protect the natural and cultural heritage of our beautiful planet. For more information about Ecotourism and to see if this is something you would be interested in, visit the TIES website at ecotourism.org/our-mission.



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 Eileen and friends at the Tuscarora Retreat on March 16.



Singing and waving to the Easter Alleluias on Easter Sunday, March 31.



Sunday School students working on a "Welcome" sign for the Interfaith Book Trail on Sunday, March 17.



Pastor Eileen with some of our younger members during the Sermon on the Steps on Easter Sunday, March 31.



Pastor Alina, guest preacher Pastor Karen Sease, Vicar Paula and Pastor Eileen celebrate the Easter Vigil on March 30.



Young adults from Reformation and St. Matt's in Springfield gathered together for some food and fellowship on April 5.



Pentecost • Acts 2: 1-21 • illustratedchildrensministry.com



Non-Profit Organization
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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

May 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, May 5

Rogation Sunday
World Labyrinth Day

Sunday, May 12

Mother’s Day
Ascension Sunday

Saturday, May 18

Youth Group Car Wash
(1 pm - 3 pm)

Sunday, May 19

Pentecost Sunday
Youth Gathering Meeting

Saturday, May 26

Holy Trinity Sunday
Summer Worship
Schedule Begins