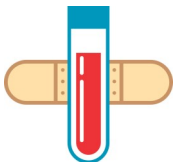

REFORMATION TIMES

August 2024

Blood Drive



**BLOOD
DRIVE**

Reformation will be hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on Saturday, **August 10** from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm in Creighton Hall.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please go to redcrossblood.org.

Save the Date!



Bishop-elect Bryan Penman will take office on **September 1**. He will be installed at a festival worship service on Saturday, **September 14**. All are welcome! More information will be shared as soon as it is available from the synod office.

Lead a CONNECTION Group

CONNECTION Groups will be starting the week of **October 6** and gathering for 7 weeks. If you have an idea for a CONNECTION Group and would like to be one of our leaders, please contact a pastor by **August 15**. Past groups have included Faith and Fitness, Book Discussions, Labyrinth Visits, Cheeseburger Adventures, Local History, Old Movies, Art, and more! Share your interests with others and make some new connections!

Reformation Named One of the ELCA's Most Generous Congregations!

In 2023, Reformation was one of 4,200 members in the ELCA Leadership Circle that shared nearly \$30 million with ELCA ministries. Because of Reformation's generosity, in 2023:

- **345** seminary students received ELCA Fund for Leaders scholarships.
- **292** new-start congregations or ministries engaged with their communities.
- **101** missionary families worked alongside our companions in 41 countries.
- **66** countries around the world, including the United States, implemented programs supported by ELCA World Hunger.
- **28** young adults served in countries around the world through Young Adults in Global Mission.
- **755** young adults participated in small-group ministries through Abide or Gather, either virtually or in person.
- Lutheran Disaster Response coordinated responses in **51** countries and **34** US states and territories.

For more information on what being part of the Leadership Circle means, you can view their newsletter online at ELCA.org/LeadershipCircle.

Celebrate the End of Summer!



Join us for an end of summer campfire celebration. On Sunday, **August 25**, at 7:00 pm, we'll gather for a campfire and s'mores at the new firepit! All are welcome.



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

1 Corinthians 12:26

Grant Patrick Zamonski, son of Lauren and Brandon Zamonski, was baptized on **July 14**.

Join the Prayer Shawl Ministry!

Since the Prayer Shawl Ministry began in 2006, the group has made over 1,450 shawls that have been given to our RELC members, family, friends and visitors and organizations like KenCrest and CHOP. They have been used to celebrate marriages, new babies and their baptisms, as well as being given in time of illness and death to comfort those who mourn or are in need.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

We invite you to join us as we knit the future of this ministry. You can support this work by attending monthly gatherings on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Women's Connection Room or by making shawls on your own time. We welcome those who knit or crochet at any skill level and we are always happy to support and teach skills together.

If you are interested in joining the group, feel free to contact Kathy Ewens at 610-952-0437 or kewens607@gmail.com.

More information can also be found at relcmedia.org/prayer-shawl-ministry.

Thank you!



I would like to offer thanks to so many of our members who assisted me in my move recently. Some helped with packing boxes, hauling things to donation places, or suggesting great referrals for downsizing. Thank you to all the friends who helped in making the transition to my new home, an incredibly overwhelming task, feasible! Count me in on helping when you need it!

- Joyce McNally

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.

Reformation Facebook Group



Did you know we have a Facebook group in addition to our church page?

Scan this QR code to join!

REFORMATION TIMES

Published Monthly by

Reformation Lutheran Church

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

Congregation Council and Officers

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

Backpack School Supply Collection 2024

It's not too late to support filling backpacks for students in the Chester and Upper Darby Communities. We will be collecting supplies through Sunday, **August 11**. Last year, 397 backpacks were filled by 17 faith communities in Delaware County. Here are 3 ways you can support the collection this year:

One way to make a contribution is to use the links below to an Amazon Wishlist – School Supplies. Place an order and it will be shipped directly to the crew that will assemble the backpacks.

Link to Wishlist:
<https://rb.gy/c4fgnq>

or scan here:



You can also make a monetary contribution. Checks can be mailed to:

School Supplies c/o Jody Troyan
1201 Swarthmore Ave.
Folsom, PA 19033

Checks should be made payable to Grace Lutheran Church – Broomall.

Finally, as in past years, you can do the shopping and drop off the supplies at Reformation. Suggested shopping lists are available in the church lobby



Vacation Bible School— Thank you!



Thank you to all of our VBS leaders and participants for a great week for our Camp Firelight! Reformation collected \$300.00 for Lutherans Restoring Creation, which is being matched by our Holiday Offering Fund! Thank you for helping to invite all people, serve our neighbors and build a living faith together at VBS!

Join the Main Line Bead Society at Reformation!



In June, the Main Line Bead Society enjoyed their first meeting in your beautiful building. We found a welcoming community with the Reformation Lutheran Church. Our non-profit group meets the third Tuesday of every month in the Community Room from 6:45 pm to 9:00 pm.

Do you like working with your hands? For each get together we invite instructors to teach a project. Part of our mission is to donate to other bead communities. One local charity we make bracelets for inner strength is “Beat it Beads” that supports cancer patients.

You welcomed us, and now we welcome you. The first meeting is free, just pay for the beading kit/supplies. For more information, please visit mainlinebeadsociety.wildapricot.org. To RSVP to the next meeting on **August 20**, please send an email to Carol at Carolco328@gmail.com.

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.

Summer Office Hours



This is just a reminder that while our normal office hours are Monday through Thursday

from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm (and closed on Fridays), with our small staff and summer vacation schedules, this might not always be the case. Please call the office before stopping in to make sure someone will be there to help you.

Chancel Choir Rehearsal



The first Chancel Choir rehearsal will be held on Wednesday, **August 28** at 7:00 pm in the Choir Room. For more information, please reach out to Valerie Rozek.

Vicar Paula Appointed Program Director of the Love Revolution



The Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod is pleased to announce the appointment of

Paula Estornell as Program Director of the Love Revolution. This position is funded through a grant from The Lilly Endowment, Inc., which awarded the synod \$1,070,392 to establish the program “Love Revolution: Love God and Love Neighbor.”

This new initiative will help congregations evolve from an institutional church built on programs and resources into a missional church built on relationships and service. Over five years the Love Revolution will work with a cohort of congregations and their lay leaders to deepen faith and discipleship and serve the needs of their neighborhood. As we imagine the church we are becoming post-pandemic, we will help congregations focus on this core teaching of Jesus: love God and love neighbor.

“We are blessed that Lilly Endowment Inc., has entrusted us through this grant to support Love Revolution,” said Bishop Patricia A. Davenport. “We trust and pray that this might be a model that causes a ripple effect of God’s love across the nation.”

“I hope that the Love Revolution will be a game changer for congregations as we help them focus on the critical work of congregational vitality,” said The Rev. Bryan Penman, Co-Director of Evangelical Mission and Bishop-elect of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod.

We are thrilled to welcome Paula to the Love Revolution and SEPA Synod Team. To send greetings to her, email pestornell@sepa.org.

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 pm). 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.

August Eco Tip

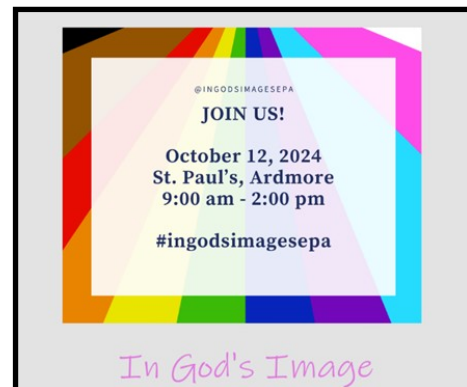


August is a great time to organize your wardrobe

before fall and get rid of anything that is worn or you no longer want or need. An eco-friendly option to donating these items is to recycle them. It's good for the environment and reduces waste in our landfills. Reformation makes it easy for you to recycle your items! We are partnered with ACR, a local company that collects and recycles old clothes and other items. ACR accepts wearable clothing, shoes, belts, purses, linens, blankets and stuffed animals. All items must be clean and dry and tied in plastic bags. Donations can be dropped off at any time in the collection bin, located at the west end of the building near the dumpsters. Proceeds received from the collections go to Reformation's Eco Ministry.

SAVE THE DATE!

You're Invited: In God's Image



On Saturday, **October 12**, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Ardmore, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod will be hosting the 6th annual *In God's Image: Shaping your Ministry to be Inclusive and Safe for LGBTQIA+ Folk*. The Rev. Dr. Karyn Wiseman, professor of homiletics and author of the upcoming book *Queering the Pulpit*, will be preaching at a festival worship to start the day. Please contact a pastor to sign up. Reformation will cover the cost of registration for all members who wish to attend.

ELCA Social Statement



The ELCA is developing a social statement on civic life and faith, the relationship of church and state, and related matters, as called for by the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

Social statements are the ELCA's primary documents to address significant social issues. They are intended to aid reflection, shape conscience and set forth the ELCA's teaching and policy on the major social issues and questions of contemporary life. Social statements are developed by task forces, using an established process of study and widespread participation across the church to guide theological and moral deliberation.

At this time the task force encourages you to study and give feedback on a draft version of the social statement. You can download the draft of the social statement and complete a feedback survey at elca.org/civicsandfaith.

The feedback period will be open until **September 30, 2024**.

SAVE THE DATES

Bishop Davenport's Upcoming Retirement Events

SAVE THE DATES! AUGUST 9-11

Worship
FRIDAY, AUG. 9, 5 P.M.
UNITED LUTHERAN SEMINARY
CHAPEL
7301 GERMANTOWN AVENUE, PHILADELPHIA, PA

Fellowship and Fun Bar-B-Que
SATURDAY, AUG. 10, 12-3 P.M.
ULS QUAD

Retirement Dinner Gala (Ticketed Event)
SUNDAY, AUG. 11, 4-8 P.M.
HILTON HOTEL,
4200 CITY LINE AVE., PHILADELPHIA, PA

Celebrating The Retirement of Our Bishop
THE REV. DR. PATRICIA A. DAVENPORT

Please mark your calendars for the upcoming events celebrating the retirement of our Bishop, The Rev. Dr. Patricia A. Davenport.

Finance Smart

by Christine Corson



August has a few important days I would like to share with you.

August 14 is National Financial Awareness Day, created in 2017 to promote financial literacy among Americans. How can we celebrate this day? That's easy...by taking the time to reflect on our own finances and how we are taking care of the present while also preparing for the future.

August 17 is National Nonprofit Day, declared a national holiday in 2017 so people could have the chance to make a difference and acknowledge those who have an impact on people's lives. Reformation gives abundantly and is a perfect role model for making a difference. How are you going to celebrate and support your favorite nonprofit? Whether it's donating money, volunteering your time, or prayer support, it's all a win! Everything you do to support Reformation is important and helps others.

So let's all try to make good financial decisions while supporting the nonprofits we love and that makes you...**Finance Smart!!!**

Underwear Collection

Once again Reformation is working with the National Giving Alliance (NGA) to collect NEW underwear and socks. NGA is a grassroots charity dedicated to providing NEW toiletries, linens, and clothing (that's TLC) for new tomorrows. We serve 10 agencies in Delaware and Chester Counties. Remember, the needy come in all sizes, shapes, ages, and genders from the newest baby at the pregnancy center to the oldest resident at Fair Acres. (Last year, Reformation provided 532 much needed items.) We will be collecting underwear from **August 18** through **September 22**. For more information, please contact Sally Burkam at 610-566-8737.



FROM THE PASTOR



Dear Reformation,

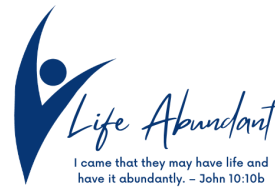
Every October we host an electronics recycling event through PAR Recycle Works. PAR stands for People Advancing Reintegration. This nonprofit was started to help those who were recently incarcerated reenter the workforce. By working at PAR they are able to gain useful skills and receive intentional mentorship as they navigate this next chapter, while also helping to make a positive difference for the environment! When we support PAR through electronics recycling, they are able to teach these tech skills to the people in their program and use funds from the recycling to support their programs. This program has been proven to reduce recidivism rates in Philadelphia. Please learn more about PAR and their mission by visiting their website: home.par-recycleworks.org.

Bring your electronics (anything with a plug!) to Reformation on Saturday, **October 5**, from 9:00 am – 12:00 noon. Like all electronics recycling programs, it often costs money to correctly dispose of older or larger items, so please be aware that there might be an assessed fee for the items you bring.

Thank you for all the ways you help serve our neighbors and this world!

Pastor Alina

Capital Campaign Update



Now that our roof is completed, we are able to turn our thoughts towards the pavilion! This next campaign project is expected to be completed this fall. The architectural prints are on display in the lobby. We will be extending the brick walkway to the pavilion and will once again have the opportunity for pavers to be sponsored with engraving. Watch for more information. See all the campaign information and updates at relcmedia.org/lifeabundant.

Little Dresses for Africa (formerly Dress A Girl) Returns!



We are back and ready to sew! We are now connected with Lutheran World Relief. We ship our dresses to LWR in Michigan and they distribute the dresses to areas in need in Africa. Thank you to our current team of seamstresses for their beautiful sewing work: Marilyn Berberich, Linda Bucher, Suzanne Clain, Lauren Young Lapin, Joyce McNally, Linda Stanbaugh and Ellen Ward. If you are interested in helping us to sew and care for those in need, more information about our program is on the church website at relcmedia.org/dresses. There are many ways to help from sewing to donating fabric. We meet the second Tuesday of each month at 10-11:30am in the Rock Room. All are welcome to join us! Contact Joyce McNally at mcnallyjoyce@aol.com for more info. We are looking forward to starting a new season of sewing on **September 10**. Hope to see you there!

The Rockdale Boys in Concert!



The Rockdale Boys will be performing an outdoor Gospel Bluegrass concert at Reformation on Sunday, **August 18**, from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. (*The concert will be moved to the sanctuary if the weather does not cooperate*). Please visit rockdaleboys.com for more information about the band.

From Pastor Alina: Holy Land Trip Update

As you know, the situation in Gaza continues to unfold with unimaginable violence. While our trip would not be in the same area of Israel and Palestine, many borders are still closed and other travel could be inhibited due to the war. As such, we have reached out to our trip coordinator with Good Shepherd Travel and have moved our trip to **January 5-15, 2026**.

In the meantime, we invite you to do some of the following as we pray for peace and support our siblings in the Holy Land:

- Follow the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation, Beit Jala on social media. (Reformation, Media supports Reformation, Beit Jala through our Endowment Outreach fund annually and we hope that Pastor Ashraf Tannous might be able to visit us in 2025.)
- Sign up for updates through Sumud - a ministry of the ELCA that will provide you with advocacy alerts and information on the work of justice in Palestine and Israel.

If you have any questions, please reach out! We pray that we will be able to travel to the Holy Land safely and soon.

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.

Kindling Faith Summer Events

ELCA Social Statement: What Does it Mean to be Lutheran in a Crucial Election Year?

Six sessions from June - October 2024

(via Zoom from 7 - 8:30 pm). As our faith informs our day-to-day lives, Lutherans recognize that “faith is active in love [and] love calls for justice in relationships and structures of society” (ELCA, Social Statement on Church in Society, 1991). We also know the church is called to be a community that prays, deliberates, and acts together when it comes to complex social issues. In this election year, how might our Lutheran faith shape our thinking, acting, and voting on major issues? Join us to learn and ponder timely social teachings of the ELCA and to learn tips for leading discussions in your own community. Up next:

- **August 27: Corporate Social Responsibility** - Rev. Kaari Reiersen, Director of Corporate Social Responsibility for the ELCA.
- **September 10: Abortion** - Dr. Caryn Riswold, Professor of Religion/McCoy Family Distinguished Chair in Lutheran Heritage and Mission at Wartburg College.
- **September 24: Faith, Sexism and Justice** - Dr. Mary Streufert, Director, Gender Justice and Women’s Empowerment, and Heather Dean, Program Coordinator, Theological Discernment, ELCA.

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

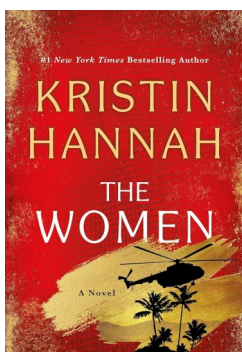
Life Center Update



Our last serving date until January is **September 26**. Watch for our sign-up sheet and casserole pans in the lobby. For more info about this meal program and to

offer your assistance, please contact Dave Smith, yanky68@comcast.net or 610-719-7190.

Library Book Club



All are welcome to join the Church Library fall book discussion of *The Women* written by celebrated author Kristin Hannah via Zoom on **October 15** at 7:00 pm. Mark your calendars! Contact Laura Reiter for more details: longreiter@gmail.com

About *The Women* from [Goodreads](#):

An intimate portrait of coming of age in a dangerous time and an epic tale of a nation divided.

Women can be heroes. When twenty-year-old nursing student Frances “Frankie” McGrath hears these words, it is a revelation. Raised in the sun-drenched, idyllic world of Southern California and sheltered by her conservative parents, she has always prided herself on doing the right thing. But in 1965, the world is changing, and she suddenly dares to imagine a different future for herself. When her brother ships out to serve in Vietnam, she joins the Army Nurse Corps and follows his path.

As green and inexperienced as the men sent to Vietnam to fight, Frankie is overwhelmed by the chaos and destruction of war. Each day is a gamble of life and death, hope and betrayal; friendships run deep and can be shattered in an instant. In war, she meets—and becomes one of—the lucky, the brave, the broken, and the lost.

But war is just the beginning for Frankie and her veteran friends. The real battle lies in coming home to a changed and divided America, to angry protesters, and to a country that wants to forget Vietnam.

The Women is the story of one woman gone to war, but it shines a light on all women who put themselves in harm’s way and whose sacrifice and commitment to their country has too often been forgotten. A novel about deep friendships and bold patriotism, *The Women* is a richly drawn story with a memorable heroine whose idealism and courage under fire will come to define an era.



Rally Day

Rally Day is Sunday, **September 8**. Our regular worship schedule resumes that morning with worship at 8:30 and 11:00 am. Please plan to join us as we start another great year of life here at Reformation!



Blessing of the Backpacks

Bring your backpacks to worship on Sunday, **September 8**, for a special blessing as we start another school year and God’s blessings in our lives every day!



Blessing of the Backpacks

SAVE THE DATE!

Electronics Recycling



Reformation is hosting a PAR Recycle Works electronics recycling event on October 5. Be sure to mark your calendar!



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.*



Volunteers working on The Garden Project at Lutheran Settlement House on June 14. Thanks to everyone who donated to our garden tool collection!



Campers studying at our "Exploration Station" on July 8, the first night of VBS.



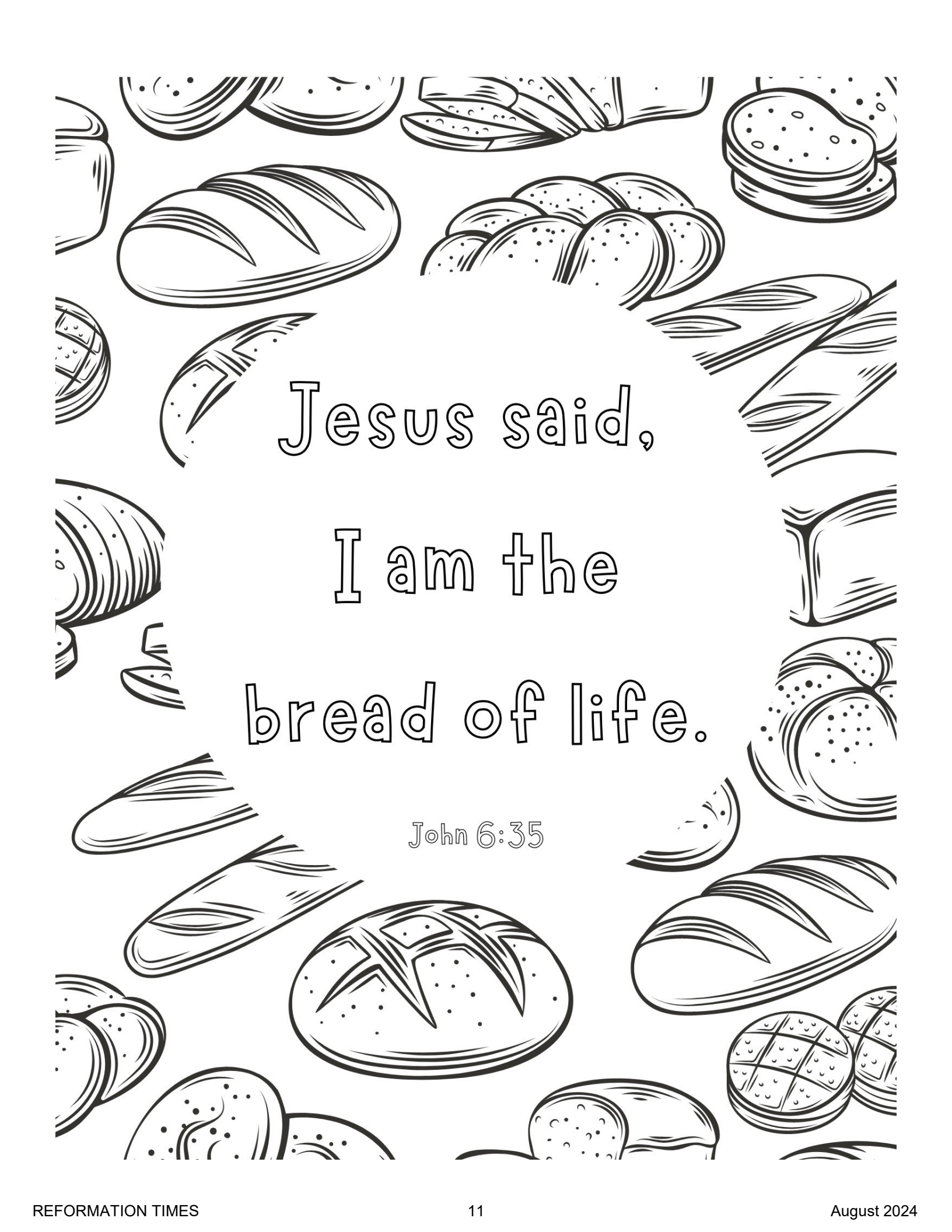
Members of the Mark E. Davis Scholarship committee along with some of this year's recipients on June 23.



Our summer intern, Kendyll Ward, shown here with Pastor Alina after preaching at worship on June 23.



John Grantland enjoying snack time with some of our younger VBS visitors on July 10.



Jesus said,

I am the

bread of life.

John 6:35



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Sunday Worship: 8:30 am Indoor & Online Worship
10:00 am Indoor & Online Worship
Worship services are livestreamed to our virtual church page.

Pastors

The Rev. Dr. Alina S. Gayeuski
The Rev. Eileen Ruppel-Doan



Return Service Requested

Label

REFORMATION TIMES

August 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, August 10

9 am - 2 pm
Blood Drive

Sunday, August 11

Youth Sunday

Sunday, August 18

4:00 pm
Rockdale Boys
outdoor concert