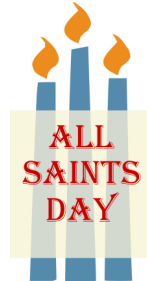

REFORMATION TIMES

November 2024

We Remember All the Saints

On All Saints Sunday, **November 3**, we remember and give thanks to God “for all the saints, who from their labors rest.” The following members of Reformation are named and remembered on that Day:



Margie Gibson
Lynda Herendeen
Wharton Jesse Hirst
Gretchen K. Hibbs
NancyLou O'Brien
Dallas Scott

“Rest eternal grant them, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon them.”

Thanks Living



*Now thank we all our God
with hearts and hands
and voices,
who wondrous things
has done,
in whom this world rejoices.*

- Now Thank We All Our God (ELW No. 840)

For Christians, “Thanksgiving” is not just a one-day holiday; it is a way of life—“Thanks Living.” We give thanks to God for all our blessings by our daily choices, actions and attitudes.

On Sunday, **November 17**, we will celebrate the abundant blessings we have received and give thanks to God. During worship, we will hear more about ELCA World Hunger and how to feed our neighbors.

Holiday Food Bags

The Community Action Ministry is collecting bags of food, cash donations, and \$25 Giant/Shop Rite gift cards to help our neighbors in need with holiday meals. These bags will be delivered to Second Time Around Parents and Migrant Ministries of Chester County, The food lists have been adjusted to better meet the needs of those we serve. If you prefer to give a cash or gift card donation, please use the envelopes on the lobby counter.



Thanksgiving donations must be returned to Reformation by Sunday, **November 10**.

Christmas bags will be available for pick up Sunday, **November 24** and must be returned (along with any cash or gift card donations) to Reformation by Sunday, **December 8**. Thank you for helping our neighbors in need!



Fall Back

Daylight Savings Time Ends

*Mark your calendars and remember
to turn your clocks back on
Sunday, November 3.*



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

1 Corinthians 12:26

Margie Gibson entered eternal life on **September 3**. A funeral service was held on **September 12** at Reformation.

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:

- November 3
- November 10
- November 17
- November 24

Small Stars (Ages 0-3)



Join us for story time, play, and music for infants and toddlers on Saturday, **November 9**, at 9:30 am in the church nursery.

Sound System Volunteers Needed



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

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

Join 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.



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.

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.

2024 Gift Giving Opportunities

It is St. Nicholas time at Reformation!

How can you participate? Give a direct donation to any of the agencies listed, shop for gifts and bring all **UNWRAPPED** gifts to worship by **December 8** for a special blessing in worship, or use the agency Amazon wish lists provided to place an order to be delivered directly to the agency.

You can also have items shipped to Reformation's address labeled **ATTN: St. Nick**.

Questions? Please contact Pastor Eileen.

Caring for Friends

This ministry serves isolated homebound persons, primarily the frail elderly, in the Greater Philadelphia area, with free daily home-cooked meals delivered weekly by volunteer visitors. The goal is to help people enhance their quality of life, maintain their independence, and remain in their own homes for as long as possible. To donate to Caring for Friends, use the link found on our website: relcmedia.org/stnick or the envelopes distributed on St. Nick Sunday.

Chester Eastside Ministry

A respected force for good in Chester, this agency provides food and clothing ministries, basic tutoring and educational enrichment programs, crisis counseling and community advocacy programs.

Target and Wal-Mart gift cards requested.

Please indicate the amount of the gift card and place in an envelope marked "Chester Eastside". \$25 gift cards preferred.

Domestic Abuse Project

Domestic Abuse Project provides services for partners and their families who are in abusive relationships. Items on their wish list include:

Gift cards (\$25 to Giant, Acme, Target, Walmart, Aldi, Wawa), packaged single serve snacks and drinks, cleaning supplies, pillows, feminine products, basic sweatshirts and pants (i.e. Hanes brand unisex S, M, L, XL no designs, neutral colors) socks, basic women's underwear all sizes.

KenCrest

KenCrest provides services for early childhood development and for individuals with developmental disabilities. Their needs are: **Toys (for ages 0-12).**

Lutheran Settlement House

Since its founding in 1902, LSH has served vulnerable children, adults and families living in the inner city. Today they serve especially the newly homeless, abused women and children, and low-income seniors. To find wish lists for the Lutheran Settlement House, please go to our website: relcmedia.org/stnick.

Migrant Ministry of Chester County

This ministry works year-round with people who harvest mushrooms in Kennett Square, providing warm clothing and blankets as well as having Bible studies and offering many diverse services for the families. Migrant Ministries' needs are: **New full-size blankets, socks, gloves, scarves for children and adults.**

Upcoming Youth Events



- **November 3** – Breakfast Club, Confirmation, Youth Group (12 - 2 pm)
- **November 10**– Confirmation with Mentors and Parents
- **November 17**– Confirmation - Caring for Friends Service Project, 3 pm
- **November 24**– Confirmation

December Preview

There are many upcoming events in December. Mark your calendars and plan to join us! Look for more details in next month's newsletter, the weekly bulletin announcements and on our website.

December 1

First Sunday of Advent

December 8

St. Nicholas celebration during worship

December 15

Racial Wealth Gap Learning Simulation during Education Hour

December 22

Blessing of the Greens during worship
Hanging of the Greens following worship

December 24

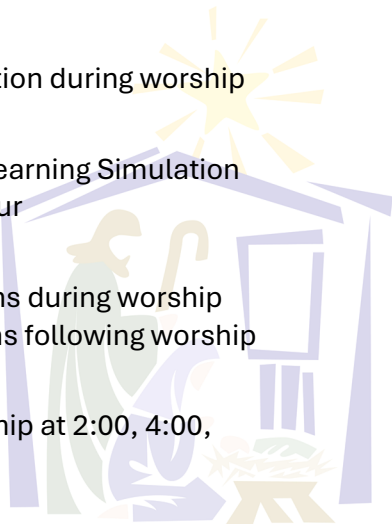
Christmas Eve Worship at 2:00, 4:00, 6:00 & 8:00pm.

December 25

Christmas Day Worship at 10:00 am
(Online only)

December 29

Worship at 10:00 am



Light the Advent Wreath

If you are interested in serving as an Advent Wreath lighter at one of our worship services during the Advent season (**Sundays, December 1, 8, 15 and 22**), please contact the church



office (rlc@relcmedia.org) and tell us the dates and worship time you are able to serve. If you are already on our Worship Team, you can choose your date directly through the scheduling system.

Longing for the Light

December 1 is the First Sunday in Advent.

Worship that day will include our "Longing for the Light of Healing and Hope" liturgy which includes a Prayer Litany and, optionally, Candle Lighting and Individual Prayer for Healing.

Advent Gospel Procession by Children



There will be a special opportunity for children to be involved in worship during the season of Advent, beginning on **December 1**. Children will be invited to help the preacher bring the Bible forward from a table in the back of the sanctuary and stand around the preacher for the reading of the gospel. Everyone will then continue with the Sermon on the Steps as usual in the service.

Altar Care Help Needed



We are looking for volunteers who would be able to assist with Altar Care. Duties include setting the altar for Sunday morning and/or cleaning up after the second

service. Set up is flexible and time spent is minimal. If you would be interested in assisting in this important ministry, please contact Barb Williams at lucky2165@verizon.net or call 610-316-8080.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND:

Big Band From the Valley Concert



Come out to Reformation on Sunday, **November 17** at 4:00 pm. The Big Band from the Valley rehearses at Reformation and has agreed to present a varied program for us, featuring vocalists Marge Miller and Dennis Finelli, 3 trumpets, 4 trombones, 5 saxophones, piano, bass and drums. Don't miss this fun concert, and stay for the pretzels and root beer afterwards!

Capital Campaign Update

Work on the pavilion project is continuing with the hope of all work being done by the end of the year! With many thanks to all who are adding their time and energy to this project, especially Dave Chorney, Dick Hughey, and Kristen Forster.



Council Highlights

The October Council meeting included the following highlights:

- Updates on the pavilion project.
- Updates on the continuing partnership with Grace Lutheran Church, Broomall.
- Financial donations approved for Lutheran Disaster Response, the Volunteer English Program, and Interfaith Philadelphia

November Eco Tip

Ten events to do this fall:

1. Leaf watching at your local park
2. Organic apple picking
3. Compost or eat your pumpkins
4. Cozy up with the sweaters you already own
5. Drink a vegan pumpkin spice latte (in a reusable mug!)
6. Start getting ready for an eco-friendly Thanksgiving
7. Buy local and seasonal veggies and fruit at your local farmer's market
8. Host a plant-based Friendsgiving
9. Spend time outdoors to connect with nature
10. Make a pile of leaves to jump into



Winter Connect Weekend



CONNECT is a fun-filled weekend at Bear Creek Camp to share with camp friends and returning summer counselors in activities unique to BCC in the winter! The weekend kicks off on Friday night and runs until Sunday after lunch. Cost for the weekend is \$140 per person. Registration is now open and closes on Wednesday, **December 27**.

4th -12th Grade - **January 10 - 12**

Learn more at <https://bearcreekcamp.org/connect-winter-camp/>.

Underwear Collection Update



Many thanks to everyone who donated underwear and socks to NGA! On October 3, we gave away 7,170 items to 11 agencies. 604 of those items were donated through Reformation (up from 532 last year!) Our year to date total is 11,067 items. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by both NGA and all of the agencies who benefited.

- Sally Burkam



Greetings, Beloveds!

“The good news to a hungry person is bread.” — Archbishop Desmond Tutu

This Fall as we think about Beloved Community near and far, we are paying extra attention to the issue of hunger in our communities and around the world.

2024 marks the 50th anniversary of ELCA World Hunger’s ministry and service. To celebrate, stop by the World Hunger table on “Thanksgiving” Sunday, November 17, to pick up resources and activities for all ages around ending hunger.

Beginning this month, we also have Advent calendars and devotion booklets from World Hunger available in the church lobby. And as always, our first Sunday of each month will continue to receive a special offering for World Hunger.

On “Thanksgiving” Sunday, November 17, our Sunday School and Confirmation students will also pack 100 meals for Caring for Friends!

Then, on St Nick Sunday, December 8, we will hear from Caring for Friends’ Managing Director of Operations about the work their organization does to reach the homebound and hungry. We will also collect a special offering for Caring for Friends on December 8 as part of our St Nick giving.

Finally, on Sunday, December 15, all are invited to join me during the Education Hour to learn more about hunger and its relationship to systemic racism. We will participate in the Racial Wealth Gap Simulation through the Bread for the World organization. This program is sponsored by Reformation’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion team and is part of a renewed commitment to DEI education and action.

I hope you’ll join us this season in learning, serving, and building a world where no person is hungry.

In Peace,
Pastor Eileen (she/her)



SAVE THE DATE!

75th Anniversary Celebration



Reformation will be celebrating its 75th Anniversary in 2025! Please mark your calendars for Sunday, **October 26, 2025** and join us for Festival Worship with guest preacher Rev. Dr. Leah D. Schade at 3 pm. Reception to follow. Please visit relcmedia.org/75 for more updates.

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!

Thrivent Choice Dollars

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!

Pastor Swap!



On **October 13**, Pastor Alina swapped pulpits with Pastor Kayla from Grace Lutheran in Broomall, celebrating our ongoing partnership with them.

Breakfast Club for High School Students



Attention High School Students: We invite you to join us for Breakfast Club this year! Those in grades 9-12 are invited to join

Breakfast Club for some yummy food, fun and a few life lessons along the way. We will be gathering in the Community Room the first Sunday of each month. Learn more and register using this QR code:



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.



Upcoming Events


GRACE
Lutheran Church

PUB THEOLOGY

WHERE CURIOSITY IS ALWAYS ON TAP

NOVEMBER 20, 5:30 PM
THE ALE HOUSE IN NEWTOWN SQUARE

Join us for our Faithful Approaches series!
This month: fully human and fully divine...
is it bad math or is it Jesus?
For more info: gracebroomall@gmail.com


BAPTIZED WE LIVE SERIES

BIBLE STUDY

This month: *A Way of Seeing, Pt. 2*

What makes a sacrament a sacrament?

November 13, 1 pm
Fellowship Hall


GRACE
Lutheran Church

wrap up some justice

SHOP FAIR TRADE ITEMS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



Reformation is the first Fair Trade certified congregation in Pennsylvania in America's first fair trade town!

COFFEE



Shopping for someone who loves their morning coffee? Seek out fair trade sellers such as Equal Exchange!

CHOCOLATE

Add something extra sweet to stockings with some fair trade chocolate! Look for the fair trade symbol on items that can be found in most candy aisles!



ACCESSORIES

Jewelry, scarves, and more are items handcrafted by artisans around the world. Stores like Ten Thousand Villages offer a great selection of these fair trade gift items.



HOLIDAY DECOR

Make your Christmas extra special with fair trade decorations. Check out the collection at websites like serrv.com.



Finance Smart

by Christine Corson



The holiday shopping season officially kicks off this month and we will all be on the lookout for the best prices on gifts for our families and friends. Scammers will also be looking for gifts in the form of “suckers”. Don’t become a “sucker”! Be especially leery of ads that promise great deals. If it seems too good to be true, it’s probably a scam. The fake ads use popular social media platforms, such as Facebook or Instagram, to lure customers in by making them believe they are buying from well-known companies such as Amazon or QVC. Never click on an advertisement when you are on your social media account. If you see something that looks like a great deal, open a new browser window and go to the actual company’s website to check the validity of the ad. Resist the urge to buy on the spot and check your “good deal” before you make the purchase, and that makes you... **Finance Smart!!!**

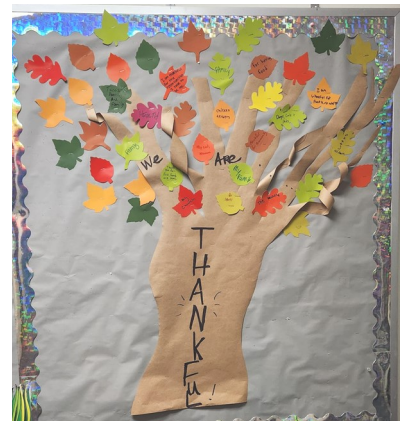
Recycle Old Clothes



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.

We Are Thankful!



Our confirmation students and mentors made a gratitude tree to tell God what we're thankful for.

Upcoming Events

Art of Interfaith Understanding: Stained Glass in Sacred Spaces: Mini-Retreat

You are invited to visit neighboring congregations in Elkins Park (Reformed Congregation Keneseth Israel and St. John's Lutheran Church).

Each sanctuary's architecture features stunning stained-glass windows that mediate the teachings of its religious tradition and create an aura of holiness.

Sunday, November 17

2:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Elkins Park, PA

Art of Interfaith Understanding: Seasons of Hope in Word and Image

Advent, Hanukkah, the Winter Solstice, the anniversary of the historical Buddha's enlightenment, and other faith-filled celebrations occur during December. Each in its own way engenders hope among devotees.

The program will include hope-filled readings and artwork.

The *Art of Interfaith Understanding* tours explore the intersection of art and faith.

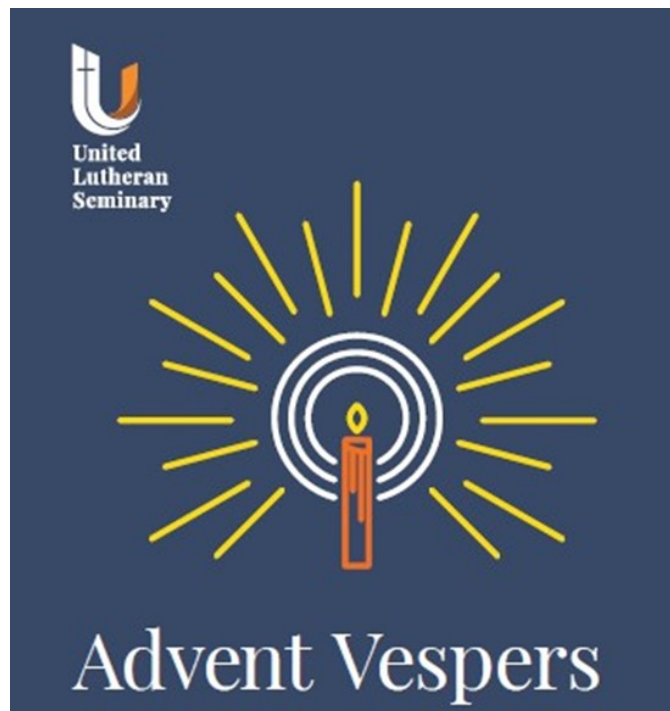
Facilitated by Rev. John B. Hougen, PhD, and Joanne Conway (Spiritual Director).

Sunday, December 8

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Philadelphia Museum of Art

Register for these and other events at interfaithphiladelphia.org.

Advent Vespers



All are welcome at the special annual Advent Vespers worship service at 5:00 pm on Sunday, **December 1**, at the Schaeffer-Ashmead Memorial Chapel on the Philadelphia Campus of United Lutheran Seminary at 7301 Germantown Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19119. For more information, please contact Andrea Oslikova at aoslikova@uls.edu.

Little Dresses for Africa



Thank you to all of the volunteers who sewed dresses and other garments to be sent over to Africa! 98 dress, 12 britches and 50 sani-pads were blessed during worship on **October 13** in preparation for shipping.



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’s “Sermon on the Steps” for God’s Work, Our Hands Sunday, September 22.



Pastor Alina and Pastor Dan were emcees at this year’s KenCrest Community Champions Awards - of which Reformation was a sponsor - on October 2.



Reformation’s “Lunch Bunch” gathered at DaShin Bistro on October 3. They will be heading to Barnaby’s in Aston on November 7. Just reach out to Edna Bogert to join them!



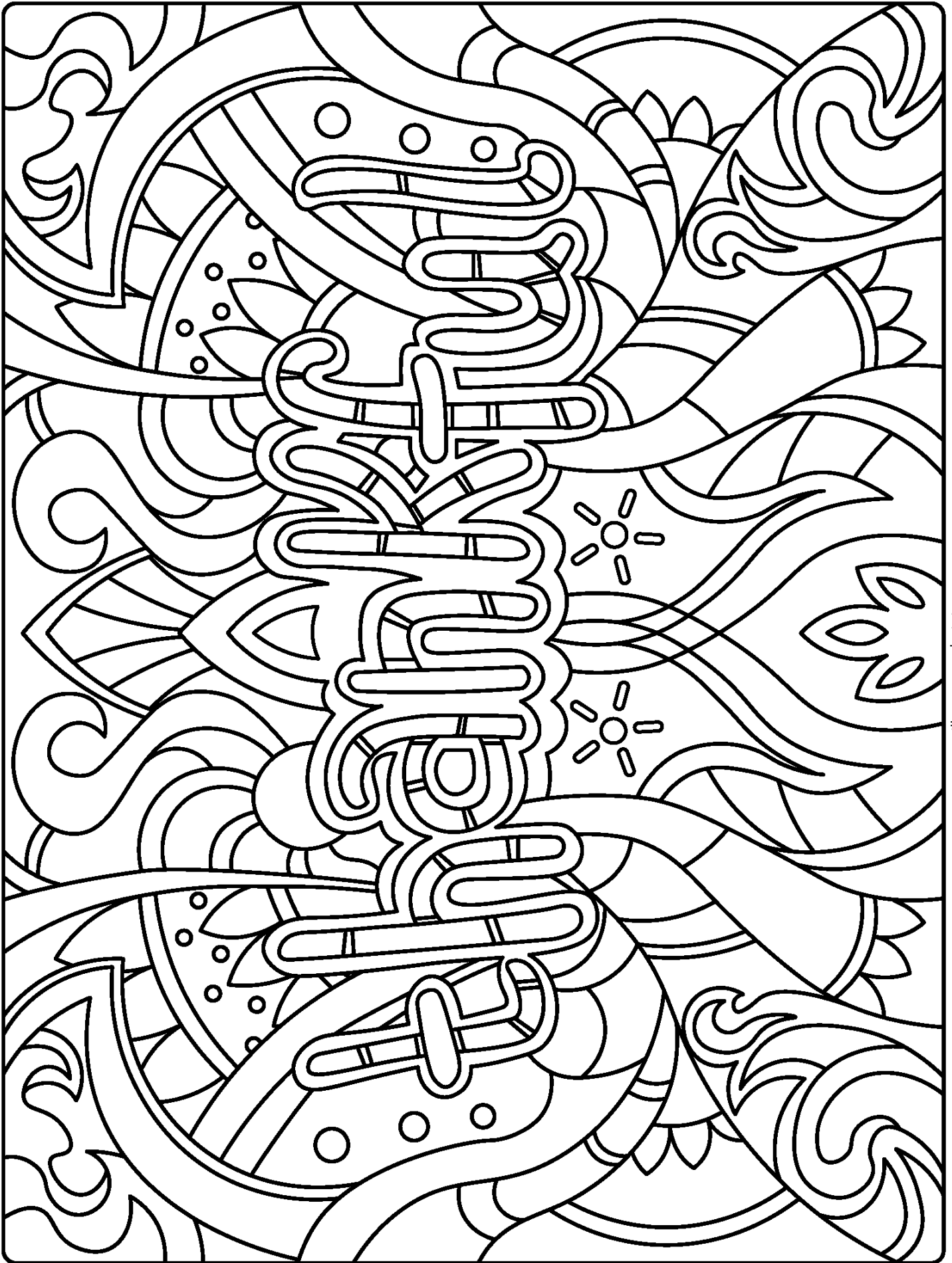
Pastor Alina and some furry friends at the Blessing of the Animals on October 6.



Pastor Eileen and Pastor Alina with Reinhard Scholarship recipient, Seminarian Nicole Young, on Sunday October 6.



The Reformation pastors and friends at the Blessing of Grace Lutheran’s renewed space on October 6.



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



Return Service Requested

Label

REFORMATION TIMES

November 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, November 3
All Saints Sunday

Tuesday, November 5
Election Day - Office Closed

Sunday, November 17
ThanksLiving Sunday
4:00 pm - The Big Band From the Valley Concert

Thursday, November 28
Thanksgiving Day -
Office Closed 11/28 and 11/29