
REFORMATION TIMES

January 2025

SOUPer Bowl Sunday



The Souper Bowl of Caring is coming! This year, the Souper Bowl of Caring is Sunday, **February 9**.

Reformation will be collecting most needed items to support those in need. The donations will be delivered to Chester Eastside. This year, we will be collecting:

- Rice
- Cereal
- Pancake mix and syrup
- Canned vegetables
- Pasta of all shapes
- Canned tuna

Items will be collected between **January 19** and **February 9**, and may be placed on the tables in the hallway. Thank you for your support!

Celebrate RIC Sunday

Both worship services on Sunday, **January 26** will participate in the annual Reconciling in Christ Sunday to celebrate our



Sunday to celebrate our commitment to welcome and affirm the LGBTQIA+ community and all God's people. For more information or to be part of the leadership on this day, contact Pastor Eileen.

Epiphany @ Home



On **January 5**, Epiphany @ Home packets will be available for families to take home. The packets will include a litany and instructions for Blessing your Home and

Inscribing your Entryway, a traditional Epiphany practice in the church.

Finance Forum

Treasurer Marian Filtz will hold a Finance Forum on Sunday, **January 19**, where she will present a detailed financial report of 2024 and the budget for 2025. This forum will be in person and on Zoom at 9:45 am. It will also be recorded and shared prior to the Annual Meeting. At the Annual Meeting, Marian will present a brief summary of this information. The finance report and proposed budget will be available as part of the Annual Meeting Materials.

Annual Meeting January 26

ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, **January 26**, at 12:00 noon in the sanctuary.

The meeting will be live streamed but you must attend in person to have a voice and vote! The Annual Report and Annual Meeting Materials will be shared by the preceding Sunday at the latest, with printed copies available for pick up at the church and digital copies shared via email. Contact the church office if you need either mailed to you.

Congratulations, Christine!



Christine Corson joined Reformation's staff in 2015. Since then, her position has continued to evolve as she has met the ever-changing and ever-growing needs of Reformation's ministry. In recognition of the expanded responsibilities of her

position, her title is being changed to reflect her work. Beginning **January 1, 2025**, Christine will serve as Reformation's Operations Manager. Her work truly keeps the daily needs of Reformation moving forward. Please join us in congratulating and thanking Christine for all her work here at Reformation!



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

1 Corinthians 12:26

Rosalinda Torres was baptized on December 15.

Sunday School Dates



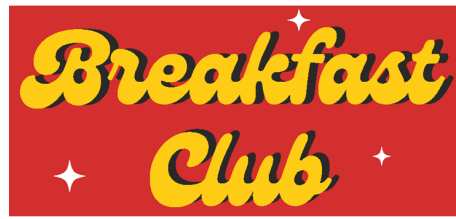
All children from birth to grade 6 are invited to join us for Sunday School. Special Sunday celebrations are for all children and youth at Reformation. Contact Pastor Eileen with any questions.

Sunday School will be held on:

- January 5
- January 12
- January 19
- January 26

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.



Breakfast Items Collection

During January and February, the Breakfast Club (High School) Sunday School Class is collecting non-perishable breakfast items for Caring for Friends. What is needed:

- Juice box or shelf stable milk/ chocolate milk
- Single oatmeal packets
- Cereal bars/granola bars (high-protein bars are appreciated)
- Tea bags or instant coffee, instant hot cocoa packets
- Fruit cups (with plastic lids or all metal only), fruit/vegetable squeeze pouches (such as Motts or GoGoSqueeze) *
- Packs of peanut butter crackers or another treat

**Please note: Do NOT include fresh food, muffins, TastyKakes (they get mushy), chips, apple sauce with thin aluminum foil tops (they break easily in transit – pouches are best).*

If you would like to contribute, please put your donation in the box in the narthex. Thank you so much for your consideration!

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.

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. The scholarship is a one-year

scholarship to a four-year college or university awarded to a member(s) of Reformation Lutheran Church. Applicants can be high school seniors or currently attending a college or university. The scholarship is awarded to an applicant(s) who demonstrates a high level of academic, religious, and community-oriented commitment and achievement. The scholarship is awarded annually in July.

Applications for the 2025-2026 academic year may be obtained by downloading from the church website or a printed copy by contacting the church office. All applications and support materials must be received or postmarked by the **May 1, 2025** deadline.

Applicants should be aware that requesting transcripts and letters of recommendation can take extra time and should plan accordingly in order to meet the deadline.

Applications can be left at the church office c/o Mark E. Davis Scholarship Committee to the attention of Ellen Davis Conroy, emailed to DavisScholarship@relcmedia.org, or mailed and postmarked by **May 1, 2025**. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered.

Mailing address:
Mark E. Davis Scholarship Committee
c/o Ellen Davis Conroy
Reformation Lutheran Church
102 West Rose Tree Road
Media, PA 19063

Any questions can be addressed to the following committee members:

Ellen Davis Conroy, Evan Davis, Rebecca Funk, Marilyn Gilroy or William Grauer.



Council Highlights

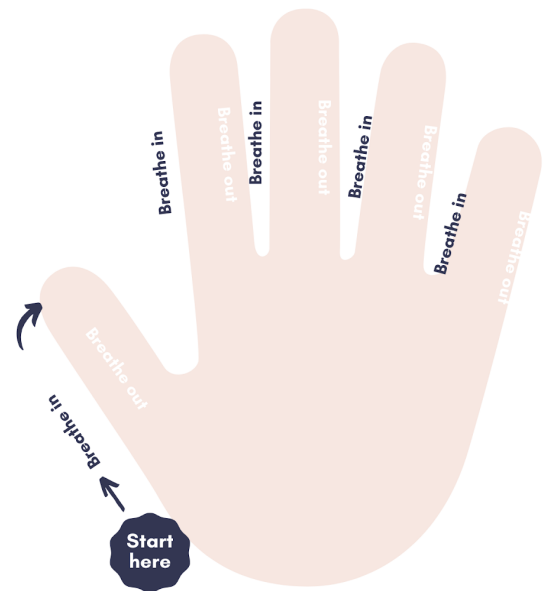
The December Council meeting included these highlights:

- Review of long-range planning
- Update from the Nominating Committee
- Updates on Capital Campaign projects
- Announcement of the Finance Forum and Annual Meeting dates

Lead a Connection Group!

Connection Groups return in Lent! Do you have an idea for a Connection Group? Reach out to Pastor Alina or Pastor Eileen to sign up to lead a group! Groups begin the week of March 2 and continue for 7 weeks. All group information must be confirmed by **January 15**.

5 FINGER BREATH PRAYER



Slowly trace the outside of your hand. Breathe in and out as the diagram shows. You can pray for a different person or need with each breath, or repeat a simple prayer five times. One idea is to breathe in "I breathe in God's love and grace" and breathe out "I breathe out worry and fear." I wonder what you would like to do for your breath prayer?

www.tracsmith.com



Upcoming Youth Events



- **January 5** – Breakfast Club, No Confirmation
- **January 12** – Confirmation
- **January 19** – Confirmation
- **January 24-25** – Youth Group Lock In, 8 pm– 8 am
- **January 26** – Confirmation

Tuscarora Youth Retreat



April
4 – 6, 2025



**Tuscarora Inn and
Conference Center
Mt. Bethel, PA**



Registration Fee:
Register by February 23rd
\$175 per person
Late Registration Fee:
Register by March 3rd
\$225 per person

THE ACTIVITIES

Praise
Small Groups
Worship
Free Time

**GRADES 6-12
and their leaders**



The Tuscarora Youth Retreat will be held from **April 4-6**. The registration deadline is **March 3**. To register, please contact Pastor Eileen.

Reformation Facebook Group



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

Conversation Among Friends

Have you ever felt warmed by sharing a meaningful conversation? Through the sharing of personal stories, experiencing a meaningful poem, or reacting to current events, conversations can be a way of supporting each other and broadening our perspectives. If you answered “yes” to any of these, you are invited to join us on the 2nd Monday of the month beginning on **January 13**. We will gather in the Alyce Thompson room from 7 - 8:30 pm. Come and experience a dynamic group that enjoys lively conversation in a safe space. This will be facilitated by Pat Polilli and Joyce McNally. Please let us know if you're planning to join us. We look forward to welcoming you!



Summer 2025 Theme Announced and Registration is Now Open!

“All Together” is about the connections that unite us—at camp and beyond. Like intertwined roots, together we grow stronger through love and service, grace-filled faith and belonging and community. Bear Creek Camp’s overnight program is centered on spiritual growth, outdoor living, and small group development for all children who have completed grades 1-12. Each age group experiences a mix of small-group and all-camp activities throughout the week to meet their group’s spiritual, social, and developmental needs. For more information and to register, please visit bearcreekcamp.org/camps/summer-camp.

Eagle Scout Project

Robert Schaub installed a Mini Maestro Music Library near the Labyrinth as his Eagle Scout Project. Stop by to borrow sheet music or an instrument!



Library Book Club News

Ready for a cozy read by the fire? All are invited to join the Reformation Library Book Club for our winter discussion of ***The House on the Cerulean Sea*** by T. J. Klune via Zoom on January 21 at 7:00pm. Contact Laura Reiter for more details: longreiter@gmail.com



About the book from Amazon:

Linus Baker is a by-the-book case worker in the Department in Charge of Magical Youth. He's tasked with determining whether six dangerous magical children are likely to bring about the end of the world.

Arthur Parnassus is the master of the orphanage. He would do anything to keep the children safe, even if it means the world will burn. And his secrets will come to light.

The House in the Cerulean Sea is an enchanting love story, masterfully told, about the profound experience of discovering an unlikely family in an unexpected place—and realizing that family is yours.

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.





FROM THE PASTOR

“In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” (Matt. 2:12)

Epiphany is January 6th, twelve days after Christmas. On Epiphany, we remember the wise men following the star to find Jesus and honoring him with lavish gifts. The word “epiphany” also means a revelation, realization, or sudden insight. It is the realization that Christ has come into the world for all people that the wise men take back with them on their journey home. Likewise, we too realize in the days following Christmas, as we turn the calendar page, that God is at work in our world here and now, even if arriving in the smallest or most unexpected of packages.

What we tend to forget about the story of the Epiphany is all the moments of fear. Fear I’m sure was present as the magi journeyed across new lands, following only a star, of all things! Fear was present for Herod, who was threatened by the birth of one who would stand up to earthly rulers. Fear was most definitely present for Mary and Joseph as they became refugees shortly thereafter, with a young Jesus starting over in Egypt.

But, this story does not end with fear. It’s in the midst of this fear that God speaks an epiphany, a realization that God is doing a new thing, even and especially when we are scared. This Epiphany season, may we look for the hope and promise of God amidst the fear of our world, knowing that fear will never have the final say.

In Peace,

Pastor Eileen (she/her)



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 2024, over \$15,000 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!

Life Center Update



Our next serving date is **January 23**. 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.

How to Access the Reformation Church Directory



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:

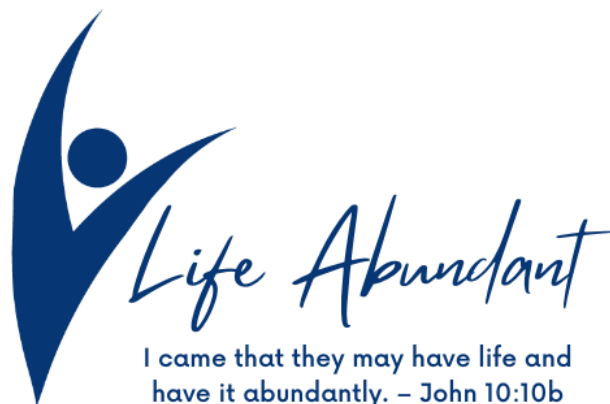
From your smartphone or tablet:

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.



Capital Campaign Update

As we end the first full year of the Capital Campaign, we do so with the exciting updates that our roof project is complete as well as the majority of our pavilion project! A full summary of the work completed will be in the Annual Meeting Materials. We look forward to the next stages of these projects and the ways they will impact the ministry of Reformation for generations to come!

Learn more at relcmedia.org/lifeabundant.



The Pavillion installation began on December 10.



Visionary Women 2025

Are you interested in connecting with other women to discuss the most pressing issues facing women today? Interfaith Philadelphia invites women from all walks of life to join a supportive and collaborative community dedicated to fostering religious understanding and promoting social harmony.

Visionary Women is an intergenerational program exploring critical issues at the intersection of religion, gender, race, and social justice. Join this group of supportive and collaborative women.

Program Dates & Locations

Sunday, January 12, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

– Online Orientation

Sunday, January 26, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

– Won Institute of Graduate Studies

Sunday, February 23, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

– Islamic Society of Greater Valley Forge

Sunday, March 23, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

– Mother Bethel AME Church

Sunday, April 27, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

– Old Haverford Friends Meeting

Sunday, May 18, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

– Jewish Synagogue (Location TBD)

Program components include:

- Visits to sacred spaces throughout the Philadelphia region
- Panel discussions featuring diverse leaders from faith communities
- Small group dialogues with fellow participants
- Opportunities to connect with women to dialogue on important topics facing women today

All women are welcome, regardless of religious affiliation or congregational membership. For more information or to register, please visit interfaithphiladelphia.org/events/visionary-women-2025.

Upcoming Events at Grace, Broomall

BAPTIZED WE LIVE SERIES

BIBLE STUDY

This month: **Our Liturgy and Scripture**

How do the scriptures and our liturgy connect? How much of scripture is within the liturgy?

January 8, 1 pm
Fellowship Hall



PUB THEOLOGY

WHERE CURIOSITY IS ALWAYS ON TAP

JANUARY 15, 5:30 PM

THE ALE HOUSE IN NEWTOWN SQUARE

Join us for our Faithful Approaches series! This month: how did we get so many flavors of Christian? And what makes the Lutheran one unique?



Hope in a Divided World: A Faithful Response to Christian Nationalism



Join us for a weekend, **March 7 and 8**, with Dr. Lori Brandt Hale, president of the International Bonhoeffer Society – English Language Section AND Amanda Tyler of Christians Against Christian Nationalism. Discover how people of faith can authentically and humbly act at the intersection of civic life and faith, in contrast and response to the forces of Christian Nationalism, using the legacy and theology of Dietrich Bonhoeffer as a guide. We are grateful to partner with United Lutheran Seminary’s Kindling Faith to offer this event. Early bird registration open until **February 7!** For more information, please go to lutheranadvocacypa.org/event/bonhoefferlecture.

National Day of Racial Healing



The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), in partnership with our parent company Augsburg Fortress Publishers, will join the movement of racial healing for our church and the nation. On **January 21**, from 11 am to 3 pm, the ELCA will feature a free online educational event that centers the voices of ELCA leaders of color. This event is open to all! We welcome ELCA rostered ministers, lay leaders, members, synods, congregations, colleges, universities, seminaries, separately incorporated ministries, and antiracism teams. We also extend a warm welcome to our Full Communion Partners, as well as the church’s affiliate organizations and ecumenical and interreligious partners. Join us in this collective effort for a more just and equitable world.

Finance Smart

by Christine Corson



Happy New Finance Year! Are you ready for it? It can seem daunting to be at the very beginning of an entire year of expenses, not to mention income tax season being right around the corner. The first step to begin a finance year is to get organized. Go through all 2024 receipts, paperwork, etc. and put everything in order by category (banking, paystubs, medical receipts, household expenses, etc.) Set aside all information needed for your 2024 tax return and keep that separate from all other documents. Next step would be to make new files for 2025 receipts to help keep you on track in the coming months. If you do these simple tasks, you will be off to a good start at getting organized in 2025 and that makes you...**Finance Smart!!!**

Eco Tips for the New Year

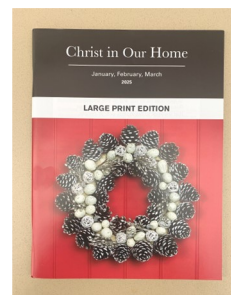
by John Berberich

This winter, opt for activities with a smaller carbon footprint. Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and ice skating rely on human power and have minimal environmental impact. These activities not only provide excellent winter exercise, but also allow you to immerse yourself in the beauty of the season without the noise and emissions associated with motorized winter sports.



When venturing into the great outdoors for winter fun, be sure to follow the “Leave No Trace” principles. Respect natural habitats and wildlife, stay on designated trails and dispose of waste responsibly to minimize your impact on the environment.

Christ In Our Home Booklets



The January/February/March 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.



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.



We had lots of help from our Sunday School and Confirmation students (and our adult helpers) to pack 120 meals for Caring For Friends on November 17.



Sunday School students celebrated Christ the King on November 24.



Valerie Rozek and our bell chorus performing "Good King Wenceslas" on December 8.



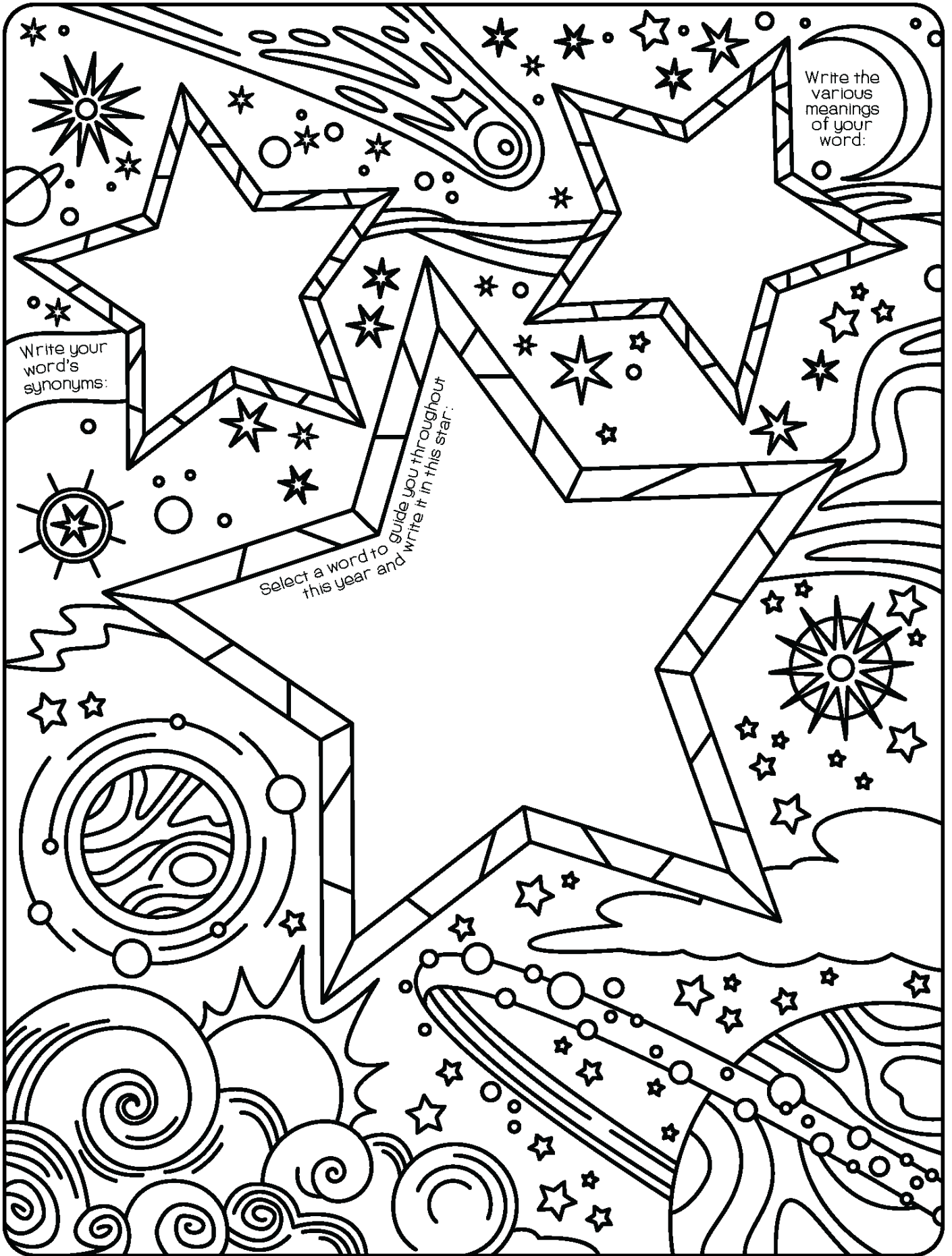
We had a special visit from Bishop Nicholas on St. Nick Sunday, December 8.



Pastor Eileen and friends process the gospel on December 8.



Phyllis Brady had some help loading donations for The Domestic Abuse Project of Delaware County on December 8.



Write the various meanings of your word:

Write your word's synonyms:

Select a word to guide you throughout this year and write it in this star:



Non-Profit
Organization
**U.S. POSTAGE
PAID**
MEDIA, PA 19063
Permit No. 315

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



Return Service Requested

Label

REFORMATION TIMES

January 2025

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, January 5
Epiphany
Unhanging of the Greens

Sunday, January 19
Financial Forum @ 9:45 am
(In-person and on Zoom)

Sunday, January 26
RIC Sunday
Annual Meeting @ 12 pm
(in the Sanctuary)