

REFORMATION TIMES

July 2025

SAVE THE DATE!

Vacation Bible School



This year's VBS will be held from **July 21 - 25** from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Be sure to mark your calendar! For more details, please visit myvbs.org/relcmedia or reach out to Pastor Eileen.

Volunteer at VBS

Do you want to help our children and youth have a great week at Vacation Bible School? Contact Pastor Eileen to volunteer! Volunteers are needed to lead class groups and activities during the week. Child care is provided for children who are too young to participate in VBS if parents are volunteering at VBS. VBS is **July 21-25**, 5:30 - 7:30 pm.

Summer 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.



Global Refuge Fundraiser Update



Global Refuge

Thanks to your generosity, Reformation was able to donate \$3,100 to Global Refuge! We appreciate everyone who contributed during the month of May.

Reformation Named One of ELCA's Most Generous Congregations!



Reformation is among the congregations most generous to ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response! Congregations like Reformation enable these

ministries to reach millions of our vulnerable neighbors across the globe. In the face of uncertainty, our work together as a church—and our presence in caring for people in crisis around the world—is more important than ever. Thank you for your dedication to working toward a just world where all are fed. We give thanks to God for the faithful generosity of Reformation members as they make an impact now and inspire hope for the future.

75th Celebration



2025 through 2026 is the 75th year of our congregation! Celebrate with us on **October 26** with a festival worship and Oktoberfest-style reception. **RSVP at relcmedia.org/75** for the reception.

Lead a Connection Group this Fall!

Connection Groups will meet for seven weeks beginning on October 5. If you have a topic or group you would like to lead, please contact the pastors by **August 15**.



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

1 Corinthians 12:26

Ava Mariana Torres and **Anthony James Welsh**, children of Ashlyn and Joe Torres were baptized on **May 25**. **Ashlyn Torres** was also baptized along with her children.

John Grantland (President), **Laura Reiter (Vice President)**, **Chase Perry (Secretary)**, **Marian Filtz (Treasurer)**, **Jamie Anderson**, **Evie Fernandez**, **Kristen Forster**, **Eric Hathaway**, **Lindsay Lighton**, **Gabby Parker** and **Jameson Troutman** were installed as Council members and officers during worship on **June 1**.

Madison Benzing, **Rachel Bingeman**, **Sarah Bingeman**, **Tyler Bingeman**, **Arianna D'Italia**, **Natalie D'Italia**, **Adelaide Smith** and **Tyler Troutman** were the 2025-2026 recipients of the Mark E. Davis Scholarship. The scholarship was presented at worship on **June 1**.

Josie and **Jameson Lavery** received their first communion on **June 8**.

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!

Reformation Facebook Group



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



Council Highlights

The June Council meeting included these highlights:

- Welcoming new Council members
- An update from Vicar Bruce about his internship

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.

Ushers Needed!

We are in need of some additional volunteers to usher during worship—especially for the late



service. For more information, please reach out to one of the pastors or contact the church office.

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*; Laura Reiter, *Vice President*; Chase Perry, *Secretary*; Marian Filtz, *Treasurer*, Jamie Anderson, Evie Fernandez, Kristen Forster, Eric Hathaway, Lindsay Lighton, Gabby Parker, Jameson Troutman, Pastor Alina Gayeusk and Pastor Eileen Ruppel-Doan.

Backpack School Supply Collection 2025

Collection Ends **August 3**



It's time for the Backpack School Supply Collection. We hope to again be able to supply stuffed backpacks to students in the Chester and Upper Darby Communities. Last year 510 backpacks were filled by 18 faith communities in Delaware County. Here are 3 ways you can support the collection this year.

One way to make a contribution this year 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 assembly the backpacks.

Link to Wishlist:
tinyurl.com/School-Supply-Collection

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.

Dave Ehret is again serving as Treasurer
of this effort.

As in past years, you can do the shopping and drop off the supplies at Reformation. The suggested list of supplies are as follows:

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Plastic Pencil Box
- Pocket Tissue Packs
- Composition Books
- Crayons (24 count box)
- Washable Markers (8 count box)
- Glue (8-ounce bottle)
- Glue Sticks
- Large Pink Erasers
- No. 2 Pencils
- Pocket Folders
- Safety Scissors
- Pencil Sharpener
- Ruler

MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL

- Pocket Folders
- Scotch Tape
- Highlighters
- No. 2 Pencils
- Mechanical Pencils
- Colored Pencils
- Pencil Sharpener
- 3 x 5 Index Cards (ruled & unruled)
- Pens
- Ruler
- 3 Ring Binders
- Binder Dividers
- Loose Leaf Paper
- Post It Notes
- 1 Subject Notebooks
- 3 or 5 Subject Spiral Notebooks

Apply For the ELCA Hunger Advocacy Fellow in PA



Do you care about justice, and empowering people of faith to use their voice in the halls of power? Do you live in Pennsylvania, with access to getting to Harrisburg regularly? Do you have the desire to work in a hybrid team with seasoned

advocates and coalition partners across PA and the Church?

ELCA Hunger Advocacy Fellows participate in a year-long formative experience that supports their growth as a leader, as a person of faith, and as a professional advocate for an end to hunger and a just world where all are fed.

The 2025-26 Hunger Advocacy Fellow is a full-time term-contract employee (with benefits) of the ELCA. The 2025-26 Hunger Advocacy Fellow, placed with the Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania (LAMPa), will serve as a member of the staff of this ELCA-affiliated state public policy office (sppo) as a full-time term-contract employee.

The Hunger Advocacy Fellow working in Pennsylvania will learn the concrete skills of faith-based policy advocacy by embedding within and becoming a vital member of ELCA advocacy staff. These work experiences will build their professional skills and relationships, support their faith development, and help them discern and launch the next steps in their professional calling. Focusing on analyzing and addressing the root causes of hunger and economic injustice, and promoting a holistic approach to hunger ministry, the Hunger Advocacy Fellow will build ELCA World Hunger capacity to end hunger by deepening and expanding Lutheran statewide advocacy efforts in synods, coalitions and networks. For more information, and to apply, please visit elca.org/about/careers.



Save These Dates!

- Labor Day Family Camp
August 29 - September 1
- Through the Woods 5k
September 27
- Women's Fall Retreat
October 3 - 5

More details to come!

Summer 2025 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.



Overdose Prevention Program



The Pennsylvania Overdose Prevention Program is providing free Naloxone as well as drug-checking strips designed to detect xylazine and fentanyl. Reformation keeps Naloxone stocked in our first aid kits located in the main lobby and in Creighton Hall kitchen. For more information, please visit pa.gov/agencies/ddap/overdose/overdose-prevention-program.

Lutheran Night at the Phillies

Join the SEPA Synod for Lutheran Night at the Phillies on **August 18!** Please register yourself by going to tinyurl.com/44trmhxt. A portion of each ticket sale supports SEPA Youth programs.



Capital Campaign Update



The rainy weather has delayed the completion of the rain garden, but as soon as there are enough consecutive dry days, the soil will be placed and the plants added!

Plans are also being finalized for the reflection garden with work anticipated to begin by mid-summer.

Thank you for your continued, generous support of our Capital Campaign projects! More information is always available at relcmedia.org/lifeabundant.

Join the Delaware County Children's Chorus!



Does your child love to sing? Let their voice shine with Delaware County Children's Chorus! This exciting new choral program offers a joyful and welcoming space for young singers, with no audition required!

Ensembles:

Choristers (Grades 2-4): Tuesday, 5:15-6:30 pm

Chorale (Grades 5-8): Tuesday, 6:45-8:00 pm

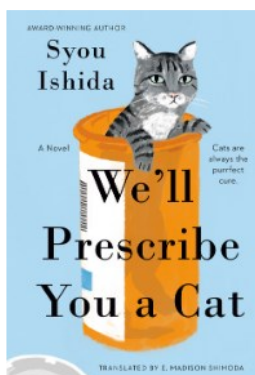
Location: Reformation Lutheran Church,
102 W. Rose Tree Rd., Media PA

Season starts: **September 2, 2025**

Registration: **Now open!**

Give your child the gift of music and community!
Visit delcochildrenschorus.org for more details.

Library Book Club News



All are welcome to join us for a Church Library Book Club discussion of *We'll Prescribe You a Cat*, by Syou Ishida. Mark your calendars for **July 15** at 7:00pm via Zoom. Contact Laura Reiter for more details: longreiter@gmail.com.

Here is more about our book selection from Goodreads.com:


A cat a day keeps the doctor away....

Discover this utterly charming, vibrant celebration of the healing power of cats in the award-winning, bestselling Japanese novel that has become an international sensation.

Tucked away on the fifth floor of an old building at the end of a narrow alley in Kyoto, the Nakagyō Kokoro Clinic for the Soul can be found only by people who are struggling in their lives and who genuinely need help. The mysterious clinic offers a unique treatment to those who find their way there: it prescribes cats as medication. Patients are often puzzled by this unconventional prescription, but when they “take” their cat for the recommended duration, they witness profound transformations in their lives, guided by the playful, empathetic, and occasionally challenging yet endearing cats.

Throughout these pages, the power of the human-animal bond is revealed as a disheartened businessman finds unexpected joy in physical labor, a middle-aged man struggles to stay relevant at work and home, a young girl navigates the complexities of elementary school cliques, a hardened handbag designer seeks emotional balance, and a geisha learns to move on from the memory of her lost cat. As the clinic's patients grapple with their inner turmoil and seek resolution, their feline companions lead them toward healing, self-discovery, and newfound hope.

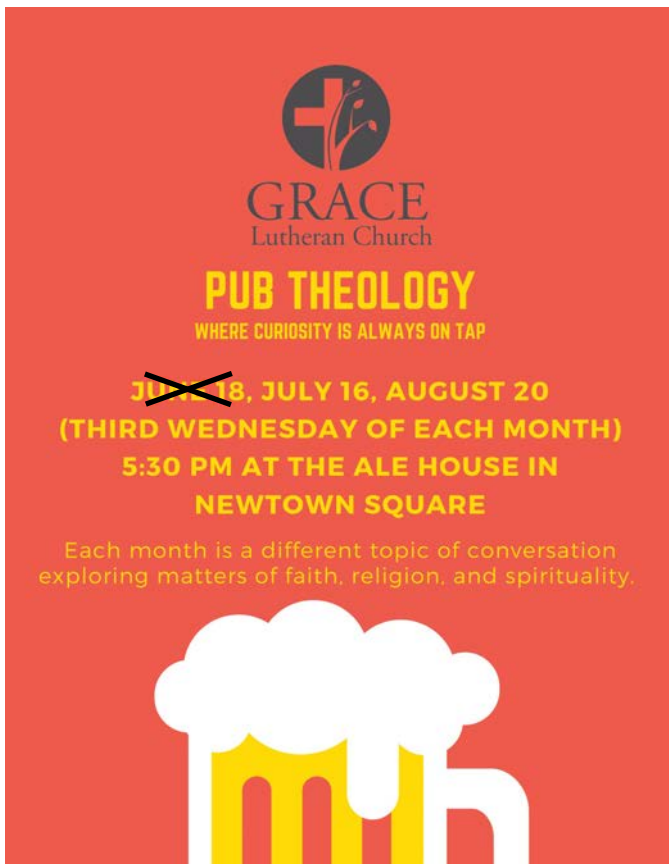
Upcoming Events at Grace Lutheran, Broomall



Bible & The Beach

JOIN US FOR A BIBLE STUDY OF
STORIES THAT HAPPEN AT THE BEACH

~~June 10~~, July 8, and August 12
(Second Tuesdays of the month)
6:30 pm on Zoom
Go to zoom.us/join and enter
6103561824 as Meeting ID
(Hint: It's Grace's phone number)
OR email Pastor Kayla for the link



GRACE
Lutheran Church

PUB THEOLOGY
WHERE CURIOSITY IS ALWAYS ON TAP

~~JUNE 18~~, JULY 16, AUGUST 20
(THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH)
5:30 PM AT THE ALE HOUSE IN
NEWTOWN SQUARE

Each month is a different topic of conversation
exploring matters of faith, religion, and spirituality.

Reformation Has **PRIDE!**

Reformation had a great time at the Delco Pride Festival in Upper Darby on **June 14**. Thank you to everyone who volunteered!





“Lord, listen to your children praying. Lord, send your spirit in this place. Lord, listen to your children praying. Send us love, send us power, send us grace.” - ELW Hymn #752

I spent many Wednesday evenings during midweek chapel at Augustana College, IL, hearing the hymn above. Played by candlelight, it was a weekly reminder that there are times and places in life that are so overwhelming, all we can do is ask God to hear us and send us what God knows we need. These past weeks have felt like one of those times, if you’ve kept up to any degree with the barrage of news - from the immigration protests across the country, to the ongoing suffering in Gaza and beyond. I once heard a saying that as a person of faith, praying is the greatest thing you can do for someone or something around you - even if the person or thing you are praying for doesn’t believe it will do any good. For people who wholeheartedly believe that God hears and answers us, a prayer is an admission that there are things we cannot handle or solve on our own. All we can do is ask God to help us. If you’re feeling the overwhelm of the world, I invite you to sit and listen, confident that God will give you what you need.

In Peace,

Pastor Eileen (she/her)



SCAN TO LISTEN

Finance Smart

by Christine Corson



National Financial Freedom Day is on July 1. What a great way to begin a month dedicated to freedom and independence! Financial freedom is a gift and should be what everyone strives for. Financial freedom can mean many different things to different individuals, such as paying off a 30-year mortgage early, being able to retire early or having a “nest egg” for the future. Whatever financial freedom means to you, anything is attainable if you work hard and make a plan. To celebrate this special day, you can make a list of things you need to do to create financial freedom for yourself or you and your family. A few examples could be to try to add a few extra dollars each week to your savings, pay down credit card debt by paying more than the minimum payment each month, or sticking firmly to your weekly budget. Financial freedom doesn’t have to be all or nothing. It’s the small changes that can make a big difference in your goal and that makes you...**Finance Smart!**

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.

Life Center Update



Our next serving date is **July 24**. 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@icloud.com or 610-719-7190.

Reformation's Impact on Fair Trade



Equal Exchange's mission is to build long-term trade partnerships that are economically just and environmentally sound, to foster mutually beneficial relationships between farmers and consumers and to demonstrate, through our success, the contribution of worker co-operatives and Fair Trade to a more equitable, democratic and sustainable world. Because Reformation only buys and serves Equal Exchange Fair Trade coffee at Reformation this is the impact we've helped make possible:

- In just coffee alone, Equal Exchange estimates that during their sale they sold roughly the annual harvest of 9 family farms. That's 678,018 cups of coffee!
- In mid-April, Equal Exchange launched the Small Farmer Fund, a new initiative to support their farmer partners as they face unprecedented market and climate changes. So far, our network of dedicated supporters has contributed: **\$15,116.93** to the Small Farmer Fund from 347 donations.

To learn more about Equal Exchange Fair Trade, please visit shop.equalexchange.coop.

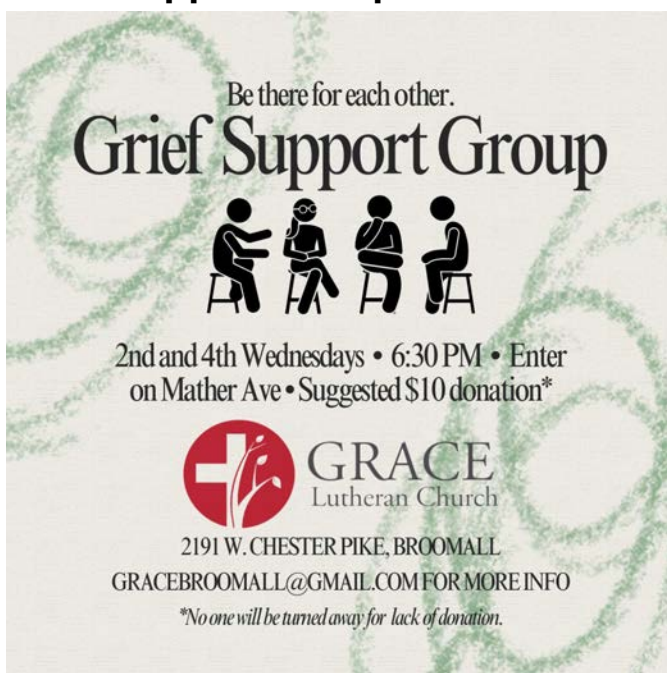
Eco Tips for July

by John Berberich



Planning a picnic this summer? Follow these tips for an eco-friendly picnic. Use durable dishware and utensils in place of paper plates and plastic utensils. Substitute paper napkins and plastic table covers with cloth napkins and tablecloths. Avoid single use items and also disposable Styrofoam coolers. All of these things can lead to litter and wasted resources. Small substitutions such as these will help to reduce waste in landfills and contribute to a cleaner environment. And lastly, always clean up and discard all trash. If there are no trash cans available, take the trash with you and discard at home.

Grief Support Group



Grace Lutheran Church hosts a Grief and Loss Group every second and fourth Wednesday evening. Please contact them at 610-356-1824 or gracebroomall@gmail.com for more details.

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!

Kindling Faith: Theological Education with Adults - A Deep Dive into the Gospel of John

July 13 - 18

Gettysburg, PA or online



The Gospel of John stands apart from the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) in both style and content. It emphasizes Jesus' divine nature more explicitly, beginning with the profound theological statement, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1). John focuses on Jesus' identity as the Son of God through unique "I Am" statements, lengthy discourses, and symbolic miracles, rather than parables.

The Rev. Dr. Allison deForest serves as the Kraft Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies in New Testament. Her areas of research are John's Gospel, Biblical Justice, and Science and Scripture.

Kindling Faith: Aging Grace-Fully Author Series

This series examines how to age with grace and live fully, with the physical, mental and social challenges that are often difficult to navigate and accept as we age. It is offered in person on the Gettysburg campus and via livestream, and is funded through a generous grant from the Lutheran Foundation for Long Term Living (LFLTL.org). Each event will be followed by a reception and book signing.

All events at 1:30PM in person in the Chapel on the ULS Gettysburg campus, 61 Seminary Ridge, Gettysburg, PA 17325 or via livestream. The remaining events are as follows:



Mia Birdsong,
author of *How We Show Up*
Tuesday, **July 15**



Anne Lamott,
author of *Somehow*
Thursday, **September 11**

To register, please scan the QR code below.
For more information, please visit
unitedlutheranseminary.edu/calendar or email
kindlingfaith@uls.edu.





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.



Our high school Breakfast Club group enjoyed a visit with some furry friends from Paws for People on May 4.



Phyllis Brady of the Lunch Bunch dropped off donations to DAP's Media office on May 7.



On May 10, four Scouts from Reformation's Troop, #430, earned the rank of Eagle Scout! Our troop has over 100 Eagle Scouts!



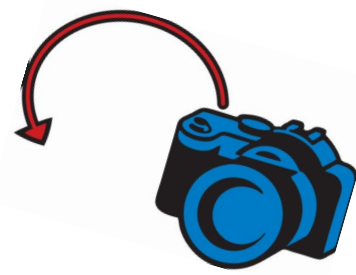
Reformation representing at Lutheran Advocacy Day in Harrisburg on May 13.



Confirmation students end the year with games on May 18.

June 1 Highlights

What a Sunday! School spirit and graduate recognition and Davis Scholarship presentation and Council installation and donation box blessing and Pride and so much joy!





102 W. Rose Tree Road • Media, PA 19063

relcmedia.org • 610.891.0600

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

July 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

Sunday, July 20

VBS Leader Installation

July 21 - 25

5:30 - 7:30 pm

Vacation Bible School