

REFORMATION TIMES

August 2025

75th Anniversary 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.

75th Anniversary Choirs



Are you interested in joining the Festival or Children's 75th Choir?

Both choirs will sing during the 75th Anniversary Worship on Sunday, **October 26** at 3:00 pm.

Festival Choir (4th grade thru adults):

The expectation to attend as many as possible Festival Choir rehearsals on Sundays, October 5-26 during Education Hour.

Children's Choir (3rd grade and below):

The expectation for my child to attend AT LEAST TWO Children's 75th Choir rehearsals on Sundays, 9/21, 10/5, and 10/19 during Education Hour.

To register, please scan the QR code below:



Hawaiian Shirt Day!

Wear a Hawaiian shirt to worship on Sunday, **August 17** as we celebrate Vicar Bruce on his final Sunday at Reformation. Refreshments will be provided.



Thank you from Christine



I want to thank all the members and staff at Reformation for the big 10th anniversary card and gifts. I was very surprised! Your kind words and support mean so much to me. It's amazing how fast the time has gone by. I love what I do and I love being a part of such a wonderful staff and generous community. It truly has been the best 10 years of my life and that's because of all of you!

- Christine

Blood Drive



Reformation will be hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on Saturday, **August 16** from 9:00 m to 2:00 pm in Creighton Hall. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org.

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

Vienna Anja Holland, child of Kristin and Matt Holland were baptized on **June 29**. **Kristin and Matt** also made their Affirmation of Baptism.

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!

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.



USHERS NEEDED



Council Highlights

The July Council meeting included these highlights:

- Approving new members
- Appointing School Board Members
- Approving benevolence funds for the Feast of Abundance program, a match to the VBS Offering, and a match for the LDR offering Note – there is no Council meeting in August.

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.

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 Gayeuski and Pastor Eileen Ruppel-Doan.

Backpack School Supply Collection 2025

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 3**. 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 assemble 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.



Chancel Choir Rehearsal



The first Chancel Choir rehearsal will be held on Wednesday, **August 27** at 7:00 pm in the Choir Room. No audition is necessary. For more information, please

reach out to Valerie Rozek.

SAVE THE DATE!

You're Invited: In God's Image



On Saturday, **October 4** from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lansdale, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod will be hosting the 7th annual In God's Image: Shaping Your Ministry to be Inclusive and Safe for LGBTQIA+ Folk. Flamy Grant will be the featured performer! Please contact a pastor to sign up. Reformation will cover the cost of registration for all members who wish to attend.

Join the Delaware County Children's Chorus!



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.

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.



Upcoming Events

Visit the websites listed below to register!

- Labor Day Family Camp
August 29 - September 1
bearcreekcamp.campbrainregistration.com
- Through the Woods 5k
September 27
bearcreekcamp.org/5k/
- Women's Fall Retreat
October 3 - 5
bearcreekcamp.org/womens-retreat/



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.

Faith and Family Newsletter



Scan below to register for our seasonal "Faith and Family" e-newsletter with prayers, readings, and activities for each liturgical season - designed for children, youth, and families.

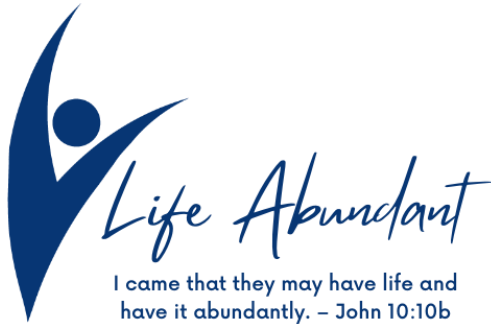


Lutheran Night at the Phillies

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 rain garden is complete! Many thanks to all who helped to make this possible – especially Kristen Forster, Jamie Anderson, Dave Chorney, Rodger Conley, and, of course, Vince Walsh from Walsh Landscaping!



We are preparing to start work on the Reflection Garden soon!

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

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 604 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.



God's Work, Our Hands

Food Distribution



God's Work, Our Hands Sunday is **September 14!** In honor of our 75th anniversary, join us as we pack and distribute 75 family food boxes full of easy meals and pantry staples for the hungry

in our community. There are three different ways to participate:

- Now thru Sept 7:
Donate cooking oil, salt and pepper, and can openers
- September 14, Education Hour:
Pack food boxes - ALL ages welcome!
- September 14, 12:30-2:30 pm:
Volunteer at our community distribution event at church. Lunch will be provided. Please sign up by scanning the QR code below for this portion of the day or contact Pastor Eileen for more information. All ages welcome with supervising adult.



Upcoming Events at Grace Lutheran, Broomall

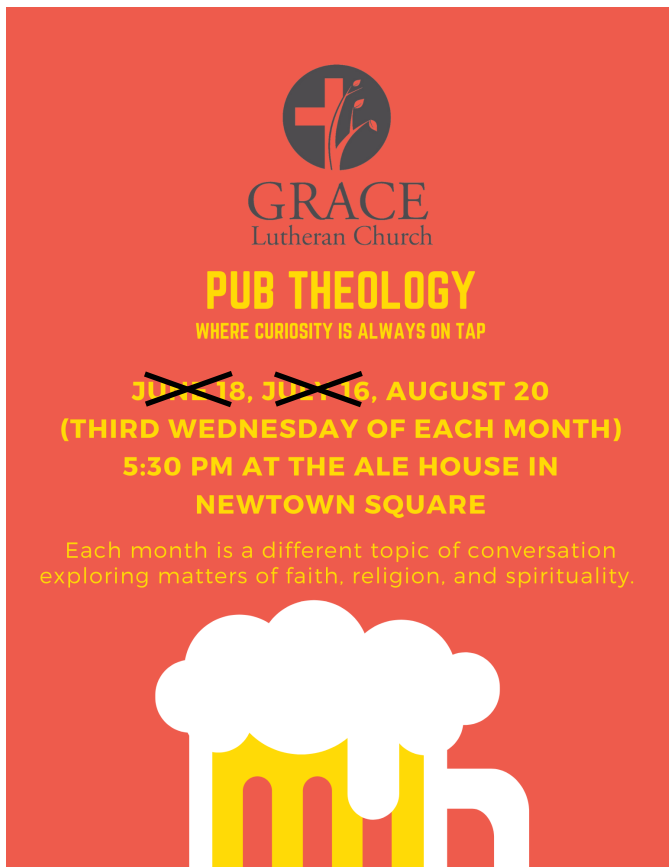


Bible & The Beach

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

~~JULY 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.



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.



PAR Recycle Works

Upcoming Event:



PAR RECYCLE WORKS

Recycling electronics.
Restoring lives.

PAR-Recycle Works is a non-profit electronics recycler providing transitional employment, job

skill training and permanent job placement to people returning from prison. Your old, retired, end of life electronics are the life-blood of PAR-Recycle Works, so please donate them today. The more e-waste PAR receives, the more people it puts to work – immediately! As an employment social enterprise, PAR-Recycle Works puts people to work. It earns revenue by responsibly recycling discarded, end-of-life electronics for its Supply Partners. By employing justice-impacted people, returning home from incarceration, PAR strengthens environmentally sustainable communities and families to which our employees are returning.

The next recycling event in our area will be held on **August 23** at the Haverford Township Building at 1014 Darby Road in Havertown, PA 19083 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. To view the full schedule, please visit par-recycleworks.org/upcoming-events.

New Board Members Needed



The Volunteer English Program of Chester County is looking for new

board members. To learn more about what this group does to help immigrants learn English, please visit VolunteerEnglish.org or reach out to Valerie Rozek. Reformation is a financial supporter of this organization.



FROM THE VICAR

Dear Reformation,

What a joy it has been to be with you for the past four months. It seems like just yesterday that I arrived in Media after driving from Burlington, Iowa to immediately join you in the time of reflection and celebration that is Holy Week. In my short time here, it has been wonderful to learn with you and from you during my internship as I completed this final part of my seminary journey. Over the next few weeks there will be opportunities to participate in the final sessions of my book studies and a mini-retreat after worship on **August 3** to study, reflect, and pray about the ways that Reformation can expand its welcome for people with disabilities by caring for all of creation.

Some of you may be wondering what is next for me along the path ahead as I move towards ordination as a deacon. First, I will submit ten essays answering questions about my experiences during internship and the ways in which it has formed and prepared me to be a deacon. Then in September, I will sit down with my academic advisor and one other faculty member for my faculty approval interview. This conversation will be an opportunity for me to describe the specific ways in which I feel called to serve the church and all of creation and the ways that Lutheran theology has framed that calling for me. After that interview, they will present me to the entire Wartburg faculty for an approval vote.

Finally in October, I will travel back to Pennsylvania for my approval interview before the joint candidacy committee of the Southwestern Pennsylvania and West Virginia Synods. I will then be released to the Southeastern Iowa Synod and approved to seek a call. By the call of the Holy Spirit I hope to receive a call to serve the church and the world as a deacon who walks alongside congregations as they care for creation and welcome all people in the places and spaces where they worship and serve their neighbors.

Blessings,

Vicar Bruce Pollock AIA

Finance Smart

by Christine Corson



Summer is the time to unwind and relax. This pertains to not just our bodies but also to our minds. Try this Unscramble the Words game to relax your mind and that makes you...**Finance Smart!** Hint: The scrambled words are just a few ways to relax. How many more can you think of to add to the list? *

LNKGAWI	AYOG
YPGINAR	YMG
ISMIWGNM	MICUS
IGIKNB	SMOIEV
PIOWRHS	EZPLUZS
EARIDGN	

* Answers are on pg. 8.

Life Center Update



Our next serving date is **September 25**. 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.

Register for Confirmation



All incoming 7th-8th grade students are eligible for Confirmation class at Reformation! Please register your students by scanning below or contact Pastor Eileen.



Eco Tips for August

by John Berberich



Easy Eco Tips to help nature:

1. Learn! There are many books on the topic of getting along with nature. Visit your local library and check one out.
2. Leave the leaves in the corners of your yard in the fall. The leaves are shelter to help insects survive the winter.
3. Pile rocks in another corner of your yard for small creatures to find a safe dark, moist place to shelter in the winter.
4. Install decals on your windows to help keep birds from injuring themselves.
5. Donate to your favorite nonprofit to support green spaces.

Grief Support Group

Be there for each other.

Grief Support Group

2nd and 4th Wednesdays • 6:30 PM • Enter on Mather Ave • Suggested \$10 donation*

GRACE
Lutheran Church

2191 W. CHESTER PIKE, BROOMALL
GRACEBROOMALL@GMAIL.COM FOR MORE INFO
**No one will be turned away for lack of donation.*

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.

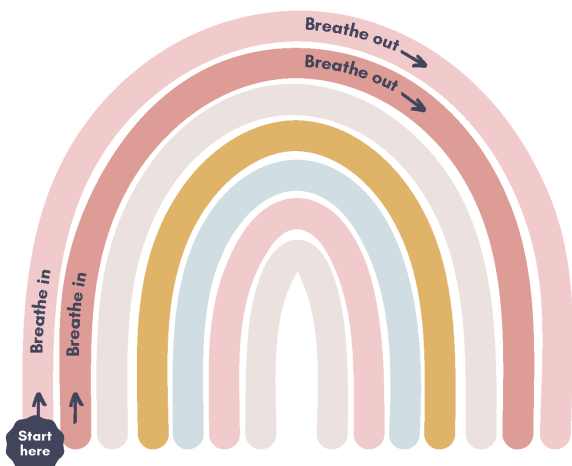
This fund enables us to match other special offerings and make our gifts go twice as far and allows our Council to respond quickly to other needs in the community. In 2024, over \$15,000 moved through our Holiday Offering fund and out into the community and the world.

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!

Answers to Finance Smart Word Scramble:

WALKING, PRAYING, SWIMMING, BIKING, WORSHIP, READING, YOGA, GYM, MUSIC, MOVIES, PUZZLES

RAINBOW BREATHING PATH



The rainbow breathing path is a simple way for us to slow down and connect together. Let's place our fingers at the bottom of the rainbow, on the left. As we trace our fingers up the arc, we'll breathe in gently through our noses. When we reach the top, we'll breathe out through our mouths as we trace down. We can move through each color at our own pace. Our breath follows the shape: in, then out. We can take turns, or breathe together. We might feel calmer after just one time—or we might want to keep going. Let's notice how our bodies feel. Let's give our minds a moment to rest. Let's simply be here, together.

Adapted from a Canva Template with care by Traci Smith for Treasure Box Tuesday Subscribers. www.tracismith.com

COMING NEXT MONTH!

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:



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.



SAVE THE DATE!

Advent Icon Workshop

Monday, **December 1 – 5**. The Rev. Bonnie Oplinger leads a week-long workshop of growth and artistic expression as participants create/write an icon of the Madonna and Child. Registration coming soon.

Rally Day

Rally Day is Sunday, **September 7**. Our regular worship schedule resumes that morning with worship at 8:30 am and 11:00 am. Please plan to join us as we start another great year of life here at Reformation!



Blessing of the Backpacks

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS Bring your backpacks to worship on Sunday, **September 7**, for a special blessing as we start another school year and God's blessings in our lives every day!



God's Work, Our Hands Sunday



God's work. Our hands.



September 14, 2025

See page 5 for more details!



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.



The Lunch Bunch gathered at the Pavilion on June 6 for their monthly get together. If you'd like to join them at their next luncheon on August 7 at Tavola in Springfield, please reach out to Sue Bianco.



Deacon Pat Polilli preached at worship on June 22.



Representing Reformation at the Domestic Abuse Project of Delaware County Inspiration Celebration on June 11.



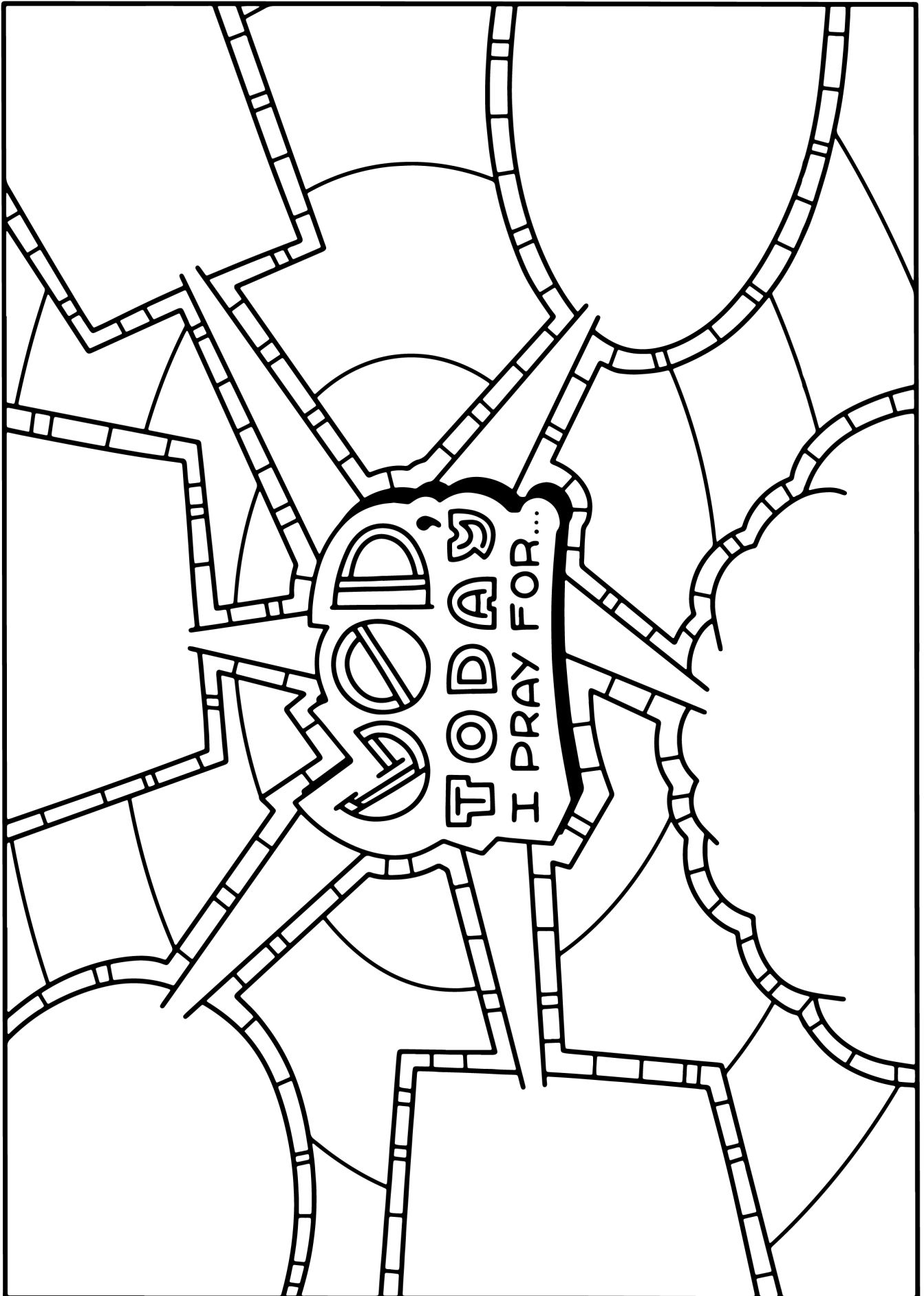
...and she had lots of help from some of our younger members!



Pastor Eileen and Pastor Alina on June 15 showing off the latest addition to the Playground—a pastor doll with a full set of stoles!



Reformation members and friends enjoyed an evening by the fire pit on Friday, June 27.



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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



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REFORMATION TIMES

August 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

Saturday, August 16

Red Cross Blood Drive
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Sunday, August 17

Farewell to Vicar Bruce
& Hawaiian Shirt Day