

REFORMATION TIMES

September 2025

2025-26 PROGRAM YEAR THEME

From Age to Age



"God's mercy is from age to age." - Luke 1:50

This October Reformation will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the official founding of the congregation. But it is a story that reaches far beyond 75 years ago - and one that will continue far into our future.

God's love and mercy have been part of the story of God's people in each generation, calling us forth in many different times and places, including at Reformation. This congregation's story is part of what God has been doing since the beginning of time. We have the opportunity to extend this story into God's future, continuing in the mission we share.

Pastor Robert Anderson, Reformation's Founding Pastor, penned these words, capturing the mystery, promise, and grace of God that moves us from age to age:

To reach beyond the known
to a new footing
firmly grounded in faith.

To soar unencumbered
through time and space
over human boundaries, imaginary walls.

To respond to a divine charismatic call
walking out upon the water
step by step.

We invite you this program year to connect with us - past, present, and future - to see how God is at work in and through Reformation for the sake of the world God so loves, from age to age.

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 food drive event at church. Lunch will be provided. Please sign up by scanning the QR code for this portion of the day or contact Pastor Eileen for more information. All ages welcome with supervising adult.



**Sunday,
September 7**
Regular Schedule Resumes

8:30 am - Worship
9:45 am - Education Hour
11:00 am - Worship

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:

September 7

September 14: *God's Work, Our Hands project*

September 21

September 28

Small Stars (Ages 0-3)

Join us for story time, play, and music for infants and toddlers on Saturday, **September 6**, at 9:30 am in the church nursery.

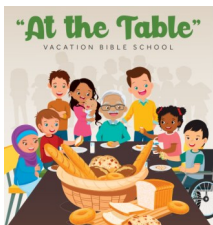
Ushers Needed!

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.

Vacation Bible School— Thank you!



Thank you to all of our VBS leaders and participants for a great week "At the Table." Reformation collected \$767.84 for ELCA World Hunger which is being matched by our Holiday Offering Fund! Thank you for

helping to invite all people, serve our neighbors and build a living faith together at VBS!

Spotted in Media



Members of Reformation's "Dining Around" group were seen enjoying a lovely evening out at Dining Under the Stars in Media on July 23.

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.



Join a Connection Group

Once again this fall you can be part of a CONNECTION GROUP – a great way to renew your connection with others at Reformation. All groups will begin meeting the week of **October 5** and will meet for 7 sessions unless otherwise noted. Sign up online at relcmedia.org/connectiongroups.

All groups are limited to 20 registrations unless otherwise noted. Registration will close on **September 29**.

Group leaders will contact group members with specific information after registration closes.

CG 1: Luther: Life and Legacy

Mondays, 7:00 pm at Reformation • Pastor Alina

As we mark the 75th anniversary of our congregation, join Pastor Alina for a review of Lutheran history. We will discuss the life of Martin Luther, the legacy he created for those in the Lutheran tradition, and what it means to be a congregation that bears the name “Reformation.”

CG 2: A Survival Guide for Trying Times

Wednesdays, 7:00 pm at Leighton-Clarke residence • Kathie Leighton

Join us for a book study of Jane Goodall’s *Book of Hope*, which asks the question: “In a world that seems so troubled, how do we hold on to hope?” Participants are encouraged to bring their favorite drink if they’d like. For virtual participation, reach out to Kathie.

CG 3: Cooked

Thursdays, 7:00 pm at Reformation • David and Sarah McCarrick

Join us for an exploration of the book *Cooked* by Michael Pollan. The book explores the origins of cooking and how culinary practice developed to become the sophisticated field it is today. We will also be using our culinary knowledge gained so expect some treats along the way!

CG 4: Themed Labyrinth Walks

Wednesdays, 9:30 am at Reformation • Joyce McNally

Learn the history of labyrinths, designs and usage inspired by Joyce’s recent labyrinth facilitator education in Chartres, France! Sessions will include labyrinth walks with various themes at Reformation, as well as potential field trips to other labyrinth sites. Some of the themes we’ll work with will be transitions/ discernment, joys of community, facing loss and grief, healing and moving towards resilience and the journey within.

CG 5: Intro to Origami

Tuesdays, 6:00 pm at Reformation • Grace Brooks

Learn how to make origami for beginners! We will start easy and get progressively more intricate as we meet. All ages and skill levels are welcome.

CG 6: Color Your Blessings

Thursdays, 6:00 pm at Reformation • Patty Boccella

Recent studies show that coloring is an emerging therapeutic way to clear your mind and lessen your worries. Join us as we take some time to relax while also reinforcing our faith with biblical themed adult coloring pages!

CG 7: Family Interfaith Sampler

Saturdays, 9:30 - 11:00 at Reformation • Marilyn Berberich

Elementary school students and their parents are invited to experience our community in a new way by learning about religious and cultural diversity that is right in our neighborhood. Together we will explore a variety of religious traditions and cultures through books, hands-on activities, crafts, and food!

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!



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.

Reformation Facebook Group



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

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:



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.

Reformation Merch!



Want to wear your Reformation Pride just in time for our 75th Anniversary? Head to relcmedia.org/75 to shop Reformation apparel.

Upcoming Youth Events



- **September 7** - Breakfast Club, Confirmation with Parents & Students, Youth Group (12:30 pm to 2:00 pm)
- **September 14** - God's Work, Our Hands project
- **September 21** - Confirmation
- **September 28** - Confirmation

Breakfast Club Returns!



Attention High School Students: We invite you to join us for Breakfast Club this year! This is an opportunity for those in

grades 9-12 to gather during the education hour – with breakfast! This is a safe space for everyone to learn valuable life skills you will actually use in the future as well as to build lasting friendships, eat some yummy food and have fun. Questions are encouraged! Jen & Jameson Troutman are the leaders of this group but will have guest speakers throughout the year. The group meets on Rally Day, **September 7**, at 9:45 am in the Community Room and then the first Sunday of the month through May. Please register using the QR code below or at relcmedia.org/breakfast-club.



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.



Upcoming Events

Visit the websites listed below to register!

- 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.





Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say,
Rejoice! – Philippians 4:4

Dear Reformation,

Life in my household has been exciting over the past few months. While some of you already know this good news, I wanted to share it with everyone formally.

My husband is starting a PhD in Religion at Georgetown University. He has concluded his time as the pastor of Holy Trinity, Narberth and we have moved from the parsonage there to Westtown. He will be in D.C. for the next several semesters as he completes his coursework. We are grateful that we are both able to do what we are called to and love during this season.

I have also received a contract from Chalice Press to turn my doctoral research into a book. *Beyond the Stained Glass Ceiling: Clergy Women in a Still-Patriarchal Church* will be published in March 2026, coinciding with Women's History Month. There will be a book launch event at the Philadelphia campus of the seminary. I will share more details when they become available.

I give thanks to God that I get to share and celebrate these things with you, Reformation. I am grateful to be part of a community that shares in the joys of daily life with me.

With gratitude,

Pastor Alina



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 and Education Hour at 9:45 am. Please plan to join us as we start another great year of life here at Reformation!

Blessing of the Backpacks

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



Capital Campaign Update



We are preparing to start work on the Reflection Garden. We are meeting with contractors and engineers to complete the necessary planning process before we break ground.

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

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!

2022

Reformation partners with Grace, Broomall to support their capital campaign to add air conditioning to their building. Members of Reformation attended worship at Grace to present them with the “big check.”



2023

Pastor Alina, Pastor Eileen, and Pastor Kayla meet with synod leadership to discuss a potential formal relationship between our congregations.

2024

Members of Reformation, under the leadership of Bill Grauer, take on the renovation of Grace’s fellowship space. With a donation of funds from Reformation’s Endowment, the space is transformed to further its use by the Wellness Center. Reformation members are invited to the re-dedication of the space.



2024 (cont.)

Pastor Alina and Pastor Kayla “pulpit-swap.” While at Reformation, Pastor Kayla also leads a session for a Connection Group that met on Sunday mornings.

2025

Grace invites Reformation’s Council to participate in a Spiritual Gift Retreat held at Grace.

Reformation and Grace share Holy Week services and leadership.



Grace calls Vicar Paula Estornell, former Reformation Deacon Intern, to serve as the Wellness Center Coordinator. Reformation commits to a three-year grant from our Endowment to offset the salary for this position. The ELCA Diaconess Community also provided a three-year grant.



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.

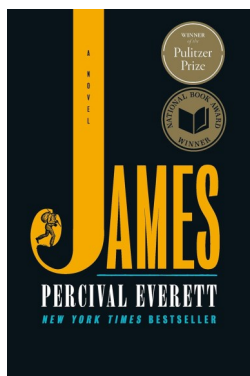


Library Book Club News

All are invited to join the Reformation Library Book Club via zoom for our always lively book discussions. Contact Laura Reiter at longreiter@gmail.com for more details.

**James - October 21 at 7:00 pm:
led by Becky Prince Funk**

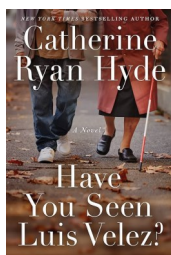
From Goodreads.com: A brilliant reimagining of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*—both harrowing and satirical—told from the enslaved Jim's point of view.



When Jim overhears that he is about to be sold to a man in New Orleans, separated from his wife and daughter forever, he runs away until he can formulate a plan. Meanwhile, Huck has faked his own death to escape his violent father. As all readers of American literature know, thus begins the dangerous and transcendent journey by raft down the Mississippi River toward the elusive and unreliable promise of the Free States and beyond.

Brimming with nuanced humor and lacerating observations that have made Everett a literary icon, this brilliant and tender novel radically illuminates Jim's agency, intelligence, and compassion as never before. *James* is destined to be a major publishing event and a cornerstone of twenty-first-century American literature.

Coming in January:



**Have You Seen Luis Velez? -
January 20, 2026 at 7:00 pm:
led by Marilyn Berberich**

More details to follow!

Finance Smart

by Christine Corson



“Back to life. Back to reality.” When you hear those words, you may start humming that familiar song from the late 80’s and more recently from a Honey Nut Cheerios commercial being aired showing the kids going back to school. How appropriate! September is here and time to get back to reality and the busyness of the new school year. It’s also a time to organize our finances for upcoming expenses. Back to school time, especially college, can be very costly. If you’re not prepared, you could spend much more than you had anticipated. Before you head out with your student, make a list of everything they need and remember to check for sales and discounts online. Overspending can occur when shopping in person because of impulse buying. You always seem to buy something that’s expensive just in case you can’t find it cheaper somewhere else. Being organized and ready this back-to-school season makes you... **Finance Smart!!!**

Chester Eastside Update

by Linda Bucher



At the beginning of August, Chester Eastside was informed that due to the cuts coming from Washington, DC, they will cease to receive funds from their primary source of food,

Share, until at least November, and likely beyond. Please support Chester Eastside if you can. You can donate directly by visiting ceichester.org. It is also important to please call and write to your Senators and Representatives in Washington, and let them know that these cuts are devastating and unacceptable. Call the general switchboard at 202-224-3121, and ask to be connected with your senator or representative. This is one way that we can put our faith into action.

Reformation School Corner



Meet Our Directors

MARION BOAS, School Director



Marion Boas is in her 17th year at Reformation Schools. She works here full time, as the School Director for both Reformation Nursery School and Stay and Play. Marion received her Associates Degree in

Education from Delaware County Community College and a bachelor's degree in Professional Studies from West Chester University. She also holds a current Directors Credential Certificate and is Serve Safe Certified. Marion is married to Dan. She has a 12-year-old daughter Aleena and 12-year-old stepson Asher. Both Aleena and Asher are graduates of the Stay and Play program. She also has a dog named Apollo. In her leisure time, she enjoys volunteering at her church and being involved with the Girl Scouts. What Marion likes best about working at Reformation Schools is when alumni students come back for visits and share their memories of their time in the program.

Underwear Collection




national giving alliance
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 through **September 22**. For more information, please contact Sally Burkam at 610-566-8737.


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*



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.

Reformation in Bloom



This lovely photo of our butterfly garden was shared with us by Patty Boccella.

Churchwide Assembly Update



The ELCA Churchwide Assembly was held in Phoenix, AZ from July 28-August 2, 2025. This triennial gathering brings together representatives from

all 65 synods to conduct the work of the whole ELCA. Some highlights of that gathering include:

- Bishop Yehiel Curry was elected to a six year term as the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA.
- Pastor Lucille "CeCee" Mills was elected to a six year term as the Secretary of the ELCA.
- Acceptance of the Social Statement "Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All" and edits to the Social Statement "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust"
- Reception of the Report from the 2024 Lutheran-Orthodox "Common Statement on the Filioque"
- Passing of Memorials on the creation of an Indian Boarding School Day of Remembrance, institution of recommendations from the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church, and standing for Palestinian Rights and End to Occupation of Palestine.
- Adoption of amendments to the ELCA Model Constitution.

For more information on the above actions and other parts of the Churchwide Assembly, visit elca.org/cwa.

Eco Tips for September

by John Berberich



Buy seasonal veggies and fruit at your local farmers market! Since local produce requires less energy to produce and transport, it is a great sustainable choice for your meals. During autumn, you can delight yourself with organic ginger, grapes, cranberries, spinach, winter squash, and brussels sprouts, among others, which are all in season. By buying at your local farmer's market, you will make sure everything you buy is local and has therefore a low carbon-footprint.



United Lutheran Seminary
UNIFYING, LEARNING, SERVING

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.



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.



Members of our Youth Group participated in a Youth Service Camp on June 28. They had a great time learning about and serving our neighbors with much fun along the way!



Our summer intern, Kendyll Ward, preached during worship on July 6.



Reformation members down the shore! Jess Reitano and Phyllis Brady met up at church while on vacation.



Some UNO fun in our newly refreshed youth space in the ROCK Room on June 28.



Students performed during their last night at VBS on July 25.



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

September 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, September 7

Rally Day

Blessing of the Backpacks
Regular Schedule Resumes

Sunday, September 14

God's Work, Our Hands

Food Packing

9:45 am

Food Drive

12:30 pm - 2:30 pm