

# REFORMATION TIMES

October 2025

## Blessing of the Animals



You and your pet are invited to a Blessing of the Animals service on **Sunday, October 5, at 1:00 pm.** The service will be held in the pavilion. If your pet is unable to attend the service, please feel free to bring along a photo of your pet.

You are also invited to bring along a donation for the Providence Animal Shelter. We will be collecting donations all month as part of Xavier Berkey's service project.

(See details in the article below!)

## Donate to PAC!

During the month of October, you are invited to bring in a donation for the Providence Animal Center (PAC).

Donations can be brought to the Blessing of the Animals service or any service **through**

**October 26.** Confirmation student, Xavier Berkey, is helping to coordinate this drive as part of a school service project. PAC is supported solely through donations and every little bit helps the dogs and cats in their care! Some of the most needed items from their wish list include:

- Canned cat and dog food
- Peanut Butter (xylitol free)
- Low Sodium Chicken Broth
- Large Milkbone treats
- Dog Kong toys (L/XL)
- Cat treats
- Clumping cat litter
- Cat toys/scratchers (new)
- Clean flat sheets or pillow cases of any size
- Clean towels
- Paper towels
- Brown paper lunch bags
- Sandwich-sized Ziploc bags
- Disinfectant wipes and spray

For a complete list, please visit [providenceac.org/support-us/wishlist](http://providenceac.org/support-us/wishlist).



## Trunk or Treat!



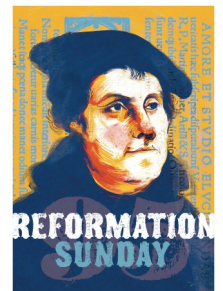
Celebrate Halloween with Reformation! **Sunday, October 26** during Education Hour will be a Trunk or Treat

event for Reformation children. Volunteers are invited to dress up, decorate your trunk, and bring some candy! A Signup Genius will be available to fill the spaces around the back of the building. Please reach out to Pastor Alina for more information.

## Reformation Sunday

Our congregation has the name "Reformation Lutheran Church" because it was founded on Reformation Sunday, October 29, 1950.

This year, on Reformation Sunday, October 26, we will celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our founding. Part of that celebration will be the recognition of our Heritage Members (those who have been members for 50 years or more) and members of the 1517 Society (those who remember Reformation in their estate planning). Join us for worship as we celebrate being a church in this place for 75 years!



## 75th Anniversary Celebration!



2025 through 2026 is the 75th year of our congregation! Celebrate with us on **October 26 at 3:00 pm** with a festival worship and Oktoberfest-style reception. **RSVP at [relcmedia.org/75](http://relcmedia.org/75)** for the reception.



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

1 Corinthians 12:26

**Nico Matro** received his first communion on **August 31**.

## 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 Alina with any questions.

Sunday School will be held on:

October 5  
October 12  
October 19  
October 26 (*Trunk or Treat*)

## Small Stars (Ages 0-3)

Join us for story time, play, and music for infants and toddlers on Saturday, **October 11**, 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.



**USHERS NEEDED**



## Council Highlights

The September Council meeting included the following highlights:

- Update on the partnership with Grace, Broomall including the call of Vicar Paula to serve as the Wellness Center Coordinator
- Approval of funding requests for Bear Creek Camp, Volunteer English Program, and the SEPA Stewardship Extravaganza
- Announcements about the upcoming Connection Groups, 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and God's Work, Our Hands project

## 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 15<sup>th</sup> of every month  
Materials to: [newsletter@relcmedia.org](mailto: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.

## Pastor Eileen on Leave

Pastor Eileen will be on medical leave this month. She hopes to return on October 26 for our anniversary celebrations. Please keep her in your prayers. Please reach out to Pastor Alina with any questions or concerns during her absence.

## Celebrate Our Confirmand!

On Sunday, **October 26** at 11:00 am worship,

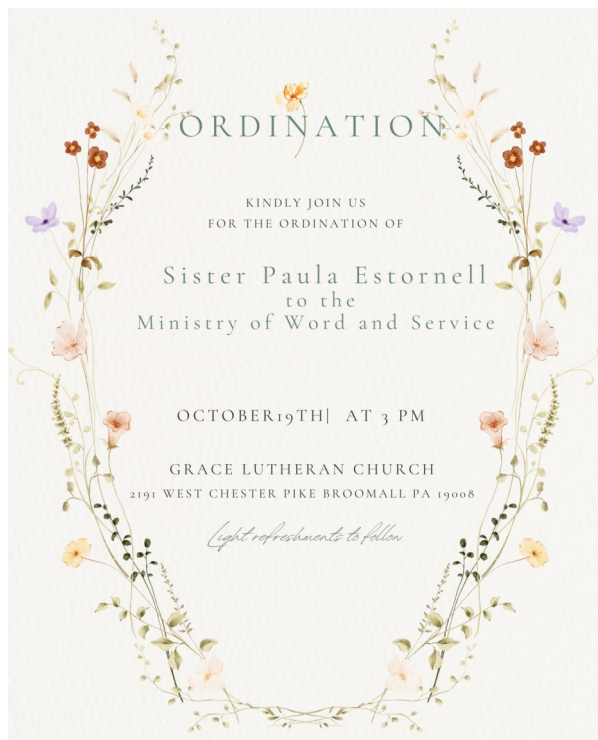


**Lillian Bocian** will affirm the promises made at her baptism during the Rite of Confirmation. Together we continue to pray for Lillian as we celebrate what God is doing in her life!

May we continue to build this community - the coming of the kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven. May we show the love that has been first shown to us through Christ. May we be the Beloved Community here at Reformation for the good of the world and for the sake of the gospel.

## Ordination Invitation

Vicar Paula Estornell, former Deacon Intern at Reformation, will be ordained to the ministry of Word and Service on **October 19** at 3:00 pm at Grace Lutheran in Broomall. Light refreshments to follow. All are welcome to join in this celebration!



## Reinhard Scholarship

On **October 5**, the Reinhard Scholarship for seminary students will be awarded to current students at United Lutheran Seminary. Seminarians Jeffrey Carey, Megan Eppleman, Rich Hollenbach and April Mulvey will be at Reformation and will participate in leading worship.

The Reinhard Scholarship was established in 2001 in memory of Chester and Helen Reinhard by their daughter, and Reformation member, Helen Beck. This annual scholarship is awarded to seminary students.

## 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:



## Reformation Merch!



Want to wear your Reformation Pride just in time for our 75th Anniversary? Head to [relcmedia.org/75](http://relcmedia.org/75) to shop Reformation apparel.



## Reformation School Corner



### Meet Our Directors

HANNAH D'AQUANNO,

Stay & Play Program Coordinator



Hannah D'Aquanno is beginning her first year at Stay and Play. She will be working here full time as the Program Coordinator. Hannah attended Widener University, where she received her Bachelors in Psychology in addition to her Masters in Development and Leadership. She has

previous experience in the Special Education field and is very excited to begin this new chapter here at Stay and Play. In her free time, Hannah enjoys going to the beach, traveling, and spending time with her friends and family. Hannah is looking forward to getting to know the children and their families.

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.

## Finance Smart

by Christine Corson



Calling all high school and college students! You work hard every day to achieve academic greatness and because of that, you are entitled to all kinds of discounts! Here are a few popular discounts for you to check out:

- Amazon offers a 6-month free trial of Amazon Prime Student and discounted membership.
- Apple offers discounted products when you shop their Education Store.
- Apple Music offers a 1-month free trial and a special student rate that includes access to Apple TV+.
- Spotify offers a 1-month free trial for a discounted monthly price (includes Hulu with ads).
- YouTube Premium offers a 1-month free trial and a discounted plan.
- Target offers a Target Circle membership at a discounted rate for students.
- Nike offers a 10% discount to high school and college students.
- Adidas offers a special discount and free shipping on online orders.
- Converse offers a 15% discount to students.
- H&M offers a 10% student discount.

Are you interested in more discounts? There are many more available including travel and transportation discounts. Google search *Student Discount List 2025* before you shop and that makes you...**Finance Smart!!!**

## Christ in Our Home Booklets



The October/November/December 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.

## Upcoming Youth Events



- **October 5** - Breakfast Club, Confirmation
- **October 10** - Youth Group Outing (Arasapha Farms, 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm.)
- **October 12** - Confirmation with Mentors
- **October 19** - Confirmation
- **October 26** - Trunk or Treat

## 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](http://relcmedia.org/breakfast-club).



## Appalachia Service Project



Families with youth currently in 6th-12th grade are invited to consider joining our next service trip with Appalachia Service Project (ASP), a home

repair ministry serving the central Appalachia region. Missed the September informational meeting? Contact Pat Polilli at [polillipat@gmail.com](mailto:polillipat@gmail.com).



## Upcoming Events

Visit the websites listed below to register!

- Women's Fall Retreat  
**October 3 - 5**  
[bearcreekcamp.org/womens-retreat/](http://bearcreekcamp.org/womens-retreat/)
- Winter Camp  
**January 9 - 11**  
[bearcreekcamp.org/camps/winter-camp/](http://bearcreekcamp.org/camps/winter-camp/)



## 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](http://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.





“For all that has been – thanks! For all that shall be – yes!” – Dag Hammarskjöld

Dear Reformation,

It's here! The month of our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary! (Reformation was formally organized on October 30, 1950 – Reformation Sunday.) It is incredible to think about the journey this congregation has been on since those early days and how the story of those saints are part of our ministry now.

These milestones are wonderful opportunities to give thanks for all that has been, but also an opportunity to look ahead. One of my favorite quotes is the one above by former Secretary-General of the United Nations. It is one of both affirmation and hope.

In this anniversary year we have the opportunity not only to say thanks for all that has been in our life as a congregation, but also to say yes to where God is calling us for the future.

I hope that you will take this opportunity to reflect on the points of gratitude you have for what Reformation has meant in your life as well as your hopes for the future. We are collecting Reformation stories and we would love to hear yours! You can submit it at [relcmedia.org/75](http://relcmedia.org/75).

We look forward to celebrating together on October 26 (and all year long!) as we mark this moment in our life together, give thanks for all that God has done, and look with excited anticipation of what the future holds!

In celebration,

Pastor Alina

## Capital Campaign Update



Engineers are currently at work on the final prints needed for the next step of our work! We are excited to receive those documents and submit them to the township for approval of the work. Flag poles and flags have been added beside the pavilion. Vince Walsh finished landscaping around the pavilion, bench, and flag pole area. Thank you for your continued, generous support of our Capital Campaign projects! More information is always available at [relcmedia.org/lifeabundant](http://relcmedia.org/lifeabundant).

SAVE THE DATE

### Thrivent Representatives Coming to Reformation

**thrivent**® On Sunday, **October 19**, we will welcome representatives from

Thrivent. They will be available for conversation before and after each service as well as leading an education program at 9:45 am. If you have questions about your particular products with Thrivent or want to learn more about all that Thrivent offers, please plan to join us and speak with a representative. You can learn more at [thrivent.com](http://thrivent.com).

### Donate by Phone!



Did you now that you can now donate to Reformation via text? Simply text the amount you wish to give to 844-628-3176!

## Eco News for October

by John Berberich



Save the date, Saturday, **November 1**, for our next Rose Tree Road Clean Up. With October being filled with celebrations here a

Reformation, we are doing our community service and helping the environment on November 1. Sign up sheets will be in the lobby in October.

## Domestic Abuse Awareness Month



October is Domestic Abuse Awareness Month. At Reformation we partner with and support the work of the Domestic Abuse Project of Delaware County and The World Council of Churches – Thursdays

in Black Campaign. To recognize this issue in our society and to work for a better future, we invite you to join us in raising awareness through some of the following actions:

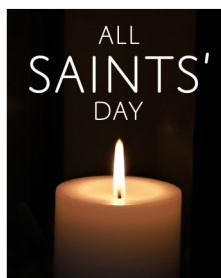
- Pick up a Thursdays in Black pin at Reformation to wear during the month – especially on Thursdays. The pastors will be wearing them each Sunday in October during worship.
- Wear purple or a purple ribbon during the month – the color of Domestic Violence Awareness.
- Join the Domestic Abuse Project at one of the events throughout the county during the month including: Survivor Celebration/Victim Tribute at the Courthouse on **October 9** at 10:00 am and “Sip & Shop” at Thrift & Thrive on October 16 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm.
- Share information about DAP with anyone who is in need of their services. The DAP hotline number is (610) 565-4590.

## Reformation Facebook Group



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

## Remembering All the Saints




All Saints Sunday is a time when the church celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who are the body of Christ. So too, it is a day for us to remember all who have died in Christ and whose baptism is complete. Once again, this year

at Reformation, we will remember those we love by creating a temporary art installation entitled, “Ribbons of Remembrance.”

On Sundays **October 12, 19** and **26**, there will be a station in the lobby where you will be able to make your ribbons. Ribbons made the last several years will be on display again this year. Stop by and use the materials provided to create a remembrance ribbon with the name of the person you would like to have remembered. Your personalized ribbons will be hung in our worship space on All Saints Sunday, **November 2**.

## Advent Icon Retreat

From **December 1 – 5**.

The Rev. Bonnie Oplinger  **United Lutheran Seminary**  
UNIFYING, LEARNING, SERVING  
leads a week-long workshop of growth and artistic expression as participants create/write an icon of the Madonna and Child. Visit [unitedlutheranseminary.edu/calendar/kindling-faith](http://unitedlutheranseminary.edu/calendar/kindling-faith) to register.

## Blood Drive Update

By Jessica Reitano

I am proud to announce that Reformation Lutheran Church has achieved Premier Partner status



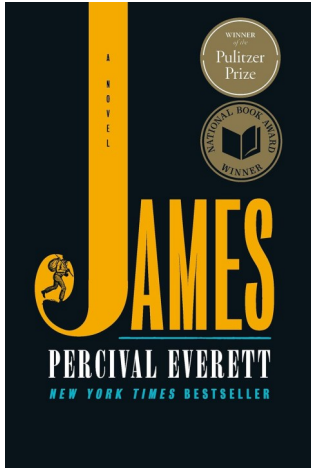
with the American Red Cross. We have hosted 37 blood drives to date and have collected 1,158 units of blood total. 1,158!!!! That is a lot of lives saved. I am humbled to play a small role in our success. Next blood drive is **December 27**. See you there!



# 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](mailto:longreiter@gmail.com) for more details.

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



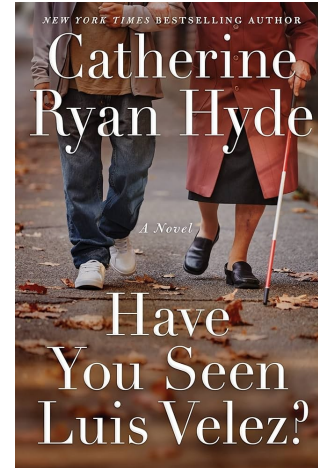
From Goodreads.com: A brilliant reimagining of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*—both harrowing and satirical—told from the enslaved Jim's point of view.

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**



From Goodreads.com:

New York Times bestselling author Catherine Ryan Hyde brings heartwarming authenticity to the story of two strangers who find that kindness is a powerful antidote to fear.

Raymond Jaffe feels like he doesn't belong. Not with his mother's new family. Not as a weekend guest with his father and his father's wife. Not at school, where he's an outcast. After his best friend moves away, Raymond has only two real to the feral cat he's tamed and to a blind ninety-two-year-old woman in his building who's introduced herself with a curious Have you seen Luis Velez?

Mildred Gutermann, a German Jew who narrowly escaped the Holocaust, has been alone since her caretaker disappeared. She turns to Raymond for help, and as he tries to track Luis down, a deep and unexpected friendship blossoms between the two.

Despondent at the loss of Luis, Mildred isolates herself further from a neighborhood devolving into bigotry and fear. Determined not to let her give up, Raymond helps her see that for every terrible act the world delivers, there is a mirror image of deep kindness, and Mildred helps Raymond see that there's hope if you have someone to hold on to.





## Upcoming Events at Grace Lutheran, Broomall

For more details on any of these events, please contact them at 610-356-1824 or [pastorkayla@gracebroomall.org](mailto:pastorkayla@gracebroomall.org) or visit [gracebroomall.org/events](http://gracebroomall.org/events).

### Community Dinner

**YOU'RE INVITED TO  
COMMUNITY DINNER!**

GET TO KNOW YOUR COMMUNITY THROUGH  
INTENTIONAL CONVERSATIONS. THE GOAL?  
LET'S FIND SHARED HUMANITY IN A WORLD OF  
DIVISION.

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**DINNER IS FREE!**

**5:30 - 7:00  
PM**

**OCTOBER 12, 2025**

HOSTED BY

2191 West  
Chester Pike  
Broomall

  
**GRACE**  
Lutheran Church

For more info or to RSVP:  
**610-356-1824 or**  
**[gracebroomall@gmail.com](mailto:gracebroomall@gmail.com)**



### Bible Study



**WHAT SUNDAY SCHOOL  
LEFT OUT**

● ● **BIBLE STUDY** ● ●


Join us for the stories we know and love with new details.

See Zoom info below OR email Pastor Kayla for the link.

**2ND TUESDAYS** **6:30 PM ONLINE**

 [zoom.us/join](https://zoom.us/join) then enter 610 356 1824 as the meeting number


### Pub Theology

  
**GRACE**  
Lutheran Church

**PUB THEOLOGY**  
WHERE CURIOSITY IS ALWAYS ON TAP

**OCTOBER 15, 2025**  
**5:30 PM AT THE ALE HOUSE IN  
NEWTOWN SQUARE**


What is paganism? What does it really mean?




### 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](mailto:GRACEBROOMALL@GMAIL.COM) FOR MORE INFO

*\*No one will be turned away for lack of donation.*



## 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](mailto:newsletter@relcmedia.org).



Pastor Eileen and our fabulous summer intern, Kendyll Ward, snapped a selfie on Kendyll's last day, August 14.



The "Lunch Bunch" gathered on September 4 at Anthony's in Springfield. Their next luncheon will be on October 2. Please reach out to Marsha Tantaros for more details.



Our "Ducks with Jobs" made their annual appearance for the Blessing of Christian Vocation on Sunday, August 31.

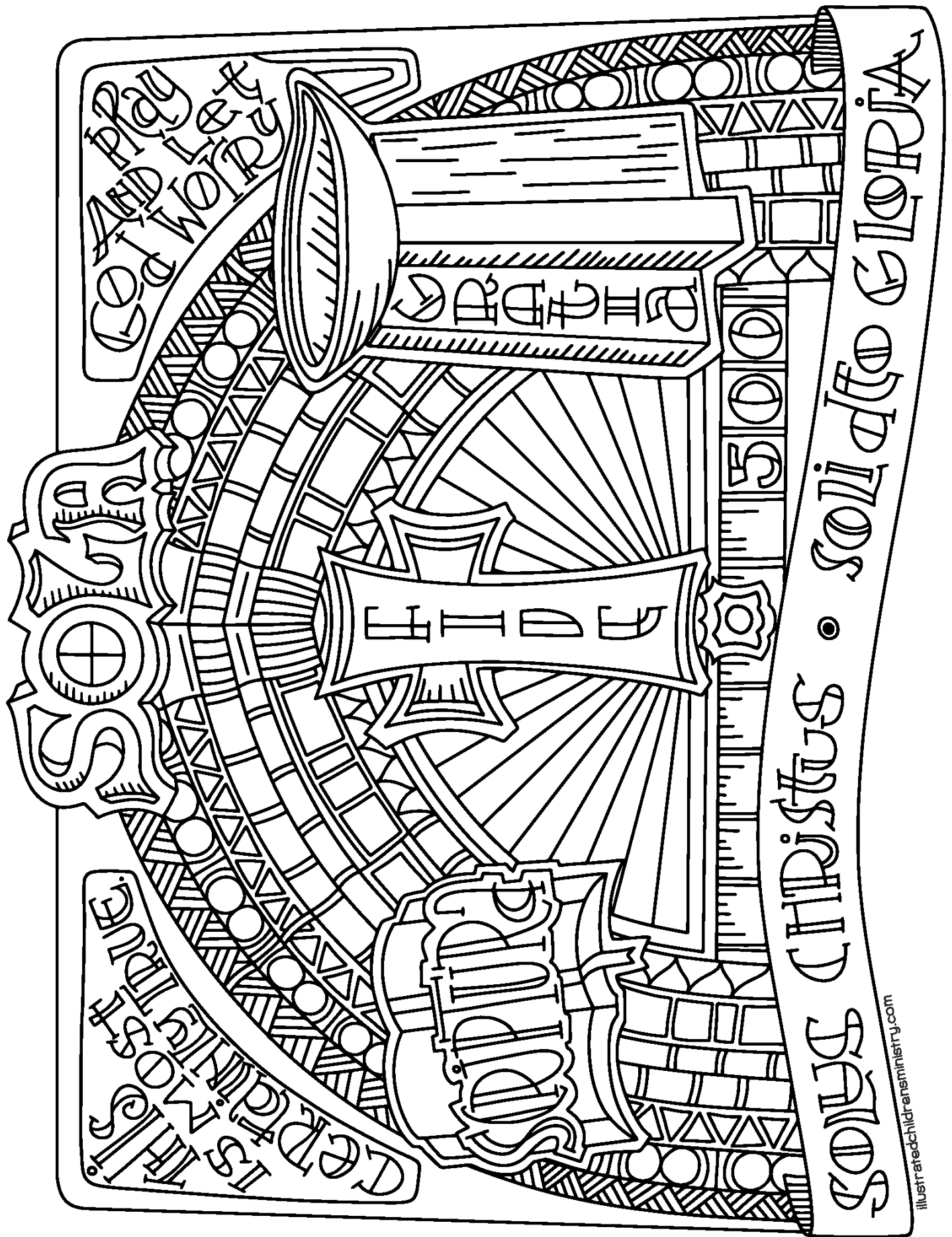


Reformation said "Farewell and Godspeed" to Vicar Bruce Pollock with a Hawaiian Shirt Sunday celebration on August 17.



Fun with crafts on Rally Day, September 7.





illustratedchildtransministry.com



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

## October 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, October 5

Reinhard Scholarship  
Blessing of the Animals, 1pm

Friday, October 10

Youth Group Outing  
to Arasapha Farms  
6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Sunday, October 19

St. Luke Celebration  
Thrivent Sunday

Sunday, October 26

Trunk or Treat, 9:45 am  
75th Anniversary Celebration,  
3:00 pm