

# REFORMATION TIMES

December 2025

## Light the Advent Wreath



If you are interested in serving as an Advent Wreath lighter at one of our worship services during the Advent season (**Sundays, December 7, 14 and 21**), please contact the church

office ([rlc@relcmedia.org](mailto:rlc@relcmedia.org)) and tell us the dates and worship time you are able to serve. If you are already on our Worship Team, you can choose your date directly through the scheduling system.

## Christmas Worship Schedule

Please note: Except for Christmas Day, all services will be held in person and online.

### Christmas Eve

All worship services include Carols, Candlelight and Communion.

**2 pm** – a service featuring traditional carols sung in a traditional style.

**4 pm** – a special service designed especially for children.

**6 pm** – a service featuring familiar carols sung in an upbeat contemporary rock style.

**8 pm** – a service featuring traditional carols sung in a traditional style.

### Christmas Day

Christmas Day Worship at 10:00 am\*

\*(Online only)

### December 28

Worship at 10:00 am

SAVE THE DATE!

## Annual Meeting

**ANNUAL MEETING**

Mark your calendars—our Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, **January 25**, at noon in the church sanctuary.

More details to come!

## St. Nick Sunday

St Nick is coming to town! Help him spread love this season by shopping for multiple agencies through [relcmedia.org/stnick](http://relcmedia.org/stnick). Bring **UNWRAPPED** gifts to worship by **December 7** for a blessing in worship.

During worship, we will hear from Deacon Ali Clark of KenCrest.

Our Sunday School Students will celebrate St Nick Sunday during Education Hour with a story time, make ornaments for our church Christmas tree, and receive their own special gift from St Nick! Please contact Pastor Eileen with questions.

## Holiday Food Bags

Christmas food bags have been distributed and must be returned (along with any Cash or \$25 Giant gift card donations) to Reformation by Sunday, **December 7**. Thank you for helping our neighbors in need!



## Blood Drive



Reformation is hosting its next Red Cross Blood Drive on Saturday, **December 27**, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. To register, please visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org).

*Blood*

Please note there will only be **ONE SERVICE** on the following dates:

**December 25**  
**10:00 am Worship**  
**\* Online Only**  
**December 28**  
**10:00 am Worship**





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

1 Corinthians 12:26

**Rowan Vasile Williams**, son of Vasile Williams and Olivia Force-Williams, was baptized on **October 5**.

**Brené Celine Norton**, daughter of Brett Norton and Amanda Richter, was baptized on **November 2**.

**Cindy Lighton** entered eternal life on **November 11**. A funeral service was held on **November 15** at Reformation.

## 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:

**December 7** (St. Nick Sunday)

**December 14**

## Small Stars (Ages 0-3)



Join us for story time, play, and music for infants and toddlers on Saturday, **December 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



**USHERS NEEDED**

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

## Reformation Facebook Group



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

## 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 Merch!

Reformation apparel is still available to purchase at [relcmedia.org/75](http://relcmedia.org/75). Treat yourself or your loved ones to new Reformation gear just in time for the holidays!



## Donate by Phone!



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

## 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 Gayeusk and Pastor Eileen Ruppel-Doan.



## Thank You, Valerie!



After more than eleven years as our Director of Music, Valerie Rozek will be retiring at the end of this year. We are grateful for all of her years of music leadership at Reformation. Valerie joined our staff after serving at Messiah Lutheran Church in Newtown Square. Her

continuity of leadership helped us to create the lasting relationship we continue to have with members of our congregation that joined after Messiah closed. Valerie has led our worship as a skilled musician and has been a valuable member of our community. She will be greatly missed. We invite you to celebrate Valerie's ministry among us at a reception in her honor on Sunday, **December 21**, at 9:45 am. Please take an opportunity during the weeks ahead to thank her for her faithful leadership and wish her God's blessing in this next chapter.

## Congratulations, Erik!

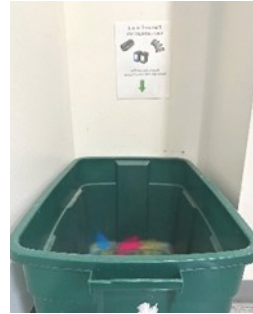
We are excited to announce that Erik Flaten, our current Director of Contemporary Music, will be stepping into a new role at Reformation. He will be Reformation's Director of Music Ministry starting on **January 1**. In this new role, Erik will be the primary



musician for both services and oversee the whole of our music ministry. We are grateful for all the gifts he has brought to Reformation and for his expanding role here.

## Reformation School Corner

by Marion Boas



Reformation School wants your ink and toner cartridges! Have you ever noticed the large green storage container at the bottom of the stairwell? As a non-profit, our school can recycle up to 30 ink and/or toner cartridges each month

at Staples. In return we receive a \$3 reward for each cartridge recycled. We can then use these rewards for our program to purchase office supplies and craft supplies for our program.

Over the past few months our school has been working on updating our school webpage. Many thanks to Pastor Eileen, Andrea Menta and Jen Troutman. You can find photos of all staff members as well as information about both programs at [relcmedia.org/school](http://relcmedia.org/school).

Looking Ahead – You can expect regular updates in the church newsletter from both the Nursery School and Stay and Play Program Coordinators.

## 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!

Who: Grades 2-5

When: Tuesdays 5:15-6:30 pm

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

Spring Semester: **January 12 - May 2**

Registration: **Now open!**

Give your child the gift of music and community!  
Visit [delcochildrenschorus.org](http://delcochildrenschorus.org) for more details.



## 2025 Gift Giving Opportunities

It's St. Nicholas time at Reformation! Please see the display in the lobby for various local agencies that need our help this holiday season. All **UNWRAPPED** gifts must be returned to Reformation by Sunday, **December 7** for a special blessing during worship, or use the wish lists provided to have items delivered to the agency. Please contact Pastor Eileen with any questions.

## A Message From Our Friends at



Dear Reformation,  
We just wanted to extend our appreciation to the volunteers from Reformation who so kindly extended themselves to help direct our high holidays parking. It really makes a difference! And we look forward to continued collaboration on many fronts. In gratitude and appreciation.  
- Rabbi Nathan and Rabbi Aviva

PS—Please find enclosed a tzedakah donation to the church in their honor and in honor of your 75th anniversary!



Rabbi Nathan with Reformation volunteers on October 5.

## Finance Smart

by Christine Corson



### Reformation **Holiday Trivia** - Let's see how "Reformation Smart" you are!

1. What items are collected during Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas to help our neighbors in need?  
a. Giant gift cards                      b. Cash donations  
c. Bags of food                              d. All of these
2. Which of these organizations are supported by the St. Nicholas Gift Giving program?  
a. Domestic Abuse Project  
b. KenCrest  
c. Caring for Friends                      d. All of these
3. What special funds help Reformation to live out our generosity every day?  
a. LDR    b. Holiday Offering  
c. Santa Fund                                  d. None of these
4. Where is Reformation's Christmas Day worship being held?  
a. Online Only                                  b. The gazebo  
c. Santa's workshop                          d. Grace Lutheran
5. What organization offers their members an opportunity to direct their Choice Dollars towards Reformation's special projects?  
a. Disney    b. McDonald's  
c. Thrivent    d. All of these
6. What year does Reformation celebrate its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary?  
a. 2025    b. 2027  
c. 2050    d. 2035
7. What church has THE best pastors and members in the whole world?  
a. Reformation                                  b. Reformation  
c. Reformation                                  d. All of these

Answer key: 1. d, 2. d, 3. b, 4. a, 5. c, 6. a, 7. d

## Upcoming Youth Events



- **December 7** - Breakfast Club, Confirmation, Youth Group (12:30 pm to 2:00pm)
- **December 14** - Confirmation

## Breakfast Club for High School Students



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. They will also have guest speakers throughout the year. The group meets the first Sunday of the month at 9:45 am in the Community Room through May. Please register using the QR code or at [relcmedia.org/breakfast-club](http://relcmedia.org/breakfast-club).



## 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).

## Road Clean Up Success!

by John Berberich

Thank you very much from Eco Ministry to all the people who turned out for our Fall 2025 Rose Tree Road clean up. We collected 11 bags of road debris! Our volunteers were as follows:

Sarah Batdorf\*  
Erica Brooks\*  
Laird Hariu\*  
Dick Hughey  
Kris Hughey  
John Berberich

*\*indicates first time participants*



## Upcoming Events

Visit the websites listed below to register!

- Winter Camp  
**January 9 - 11**  
[bearcreekcamp.org/camps/winter-camp](http://bearcreekcamp.org/camps/winter-camp)
- Spring Family Nature Retreat  
**March 20 - 22, 2026**  
[bearcreekcamp.org/spring-nature-family-camp](http://bearcreekcamp.org/spring-nature-family-camp)
- Summer Camp Early Registration  
**NOW OPEN!**  
**June 21—August 14, 2026**  
Secure your spot early by making a deposit between November 1 and December 31, and receive a free photo/video package along with a 2026 themed t-shirt.  
\*Full payments and optional add-ons like rafting and the camp store wallet will be available starting **January 5**.  
[bearcreekcamp.org/camps/summer-camp](http://bearcreekcamp.org/camps/summer-camp)



## 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.



# FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Reformation,



I am so excited to be back with you in person since my medical leave and want to share with you an exciting update since I have been away. I am honored to be one of twelve ecumenical church leaders (and the only Lutheran) from across the country accepted into the

inaugural class of WINKS Fellows through Auburn Theological Seminary. WINKS stands for Worshipping Intergenerationally and Nurturing Kids through Storytelling, and is also the name of Dr. Walter Wink, whose methods are the basis of this program. In October I was able to spend four days at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., learning the WINKS method of Transforming Bible Study - a way of reading Scripture that utilizes research from theology to neuroscience, prioritizes justice and social change, and incorporates intergenerational activities into worship to help bring Scripture alive.

Throughout the school year I will be working with these methods with our children and youth, as well as bringing them into worship! I may ask you to participate during a sermon with your whole self in a way you have never done before. We may practice asking questions that have no definitive answer, or it may look like people of all ages acting out a Scripture passage. I look forward to exploring these ideas with our congregation, continuing to learn alongside my cohort of Fellows this year, and finally attending the Heal the World Summit in Lake Tahoe to conclude my Fellowship next summer. Thank you for welcoming me back and going on this journey with me!

Pastor Eileen (she/her)

## Meet Vicar Megan!



Vicar Megan is a seminarian at United Lutheran Seminary. She will be participating in the ministry of Reformation during the season of Advent. Please welcome her when you see her at church!

Megan Eppleman is currently in her third year of pursuing a MDiv

at United Lutheran Seminary, as a candidate for Word and Sacrament through the Lower Susquehanna Synod. She holds MAs in Educational Psychology from the University of Alabama and Character Education from the University of Birmingham, with a BA in Psychology and Spanish from Lycoming College.

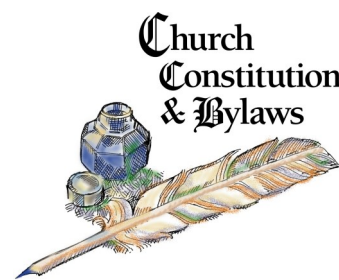
She is bivocational and currently works part-time as a Research Fellow for the Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture at the University of Virginia. Her research explores social-emotional learning, civic virtue, and inclusive pedagogy and their interaction with faith-based contexts.

She currently lives in Mount Airy with her Great Pyrenees, Thor, and cat, Strawberry. Her hobbies include cooking and creating art.

## Constitution Updates

At the 2025 Churchwide Assembly, the ELCA ratified updates to the model constitution for congregations. The applicable amendments have been added to a proposed version of our

constitution to be voted on at the annual meeting. To view the proposed changes and rationale from churchwide as well as the proposed updates to the RELC Constitution and Bylaws, please visit [relcmedia.org/constitution](http://relcmedia.org/constitution). (In accordance with C17.03 of the Constitution, this serves as the official notice of the Council's recommendation at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting.) If you have questions about any of the updates, please contact Pastor Alina.





# Reformation's 75th Anniversary Celebration

As you can see, a great time was had by all at our 75th anniversary worship and Oktoberfest celebration on Sunday, October 26! Special thanks to Trish Simcox, daughter of Pat Grantland, for the wonderful photos.







**Art of Interfaith Understanding: The Christmas Story in Art**  
From the angel's announcement to Mary to the Holy Family seeking refuge in Egypt, from angels and shepherds to St. Nicholas of Myra, we will

engage with art that tells the story of Christmas.

We will notice how each artist locates Bible stories in their own time and place, how artists use light, color, and perspective to communicate the supernatural glory of God's incarnation, how Jesus' birth fulfills earlier prophecy and foreshadows later events, and how symbols connect Jesus' birth to important Christian teachings and practice.

Facilitated by Rev. John B. Hougen, PhD, *Art of Interfaith Understanding* Coordinator and Volunteer Docent at the PMA.

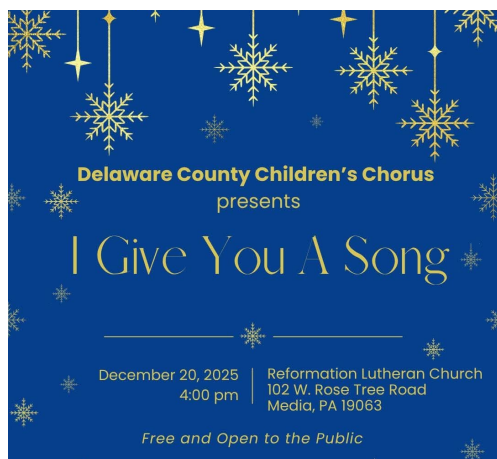
## Sunday, December 7

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Philadelphia Museum of Art

For more information and to register, please visit [interfaithphiladelphia.org/events/christmas-story-in-art](http://interfaithphiladelphia.org/events/christmas-story-in-art).

## Children's Chorus Concert



Delaware County Children's Chorus will perform at Reformation on Saturday, December 20 at 4:00 pm.

## Library Book Club News

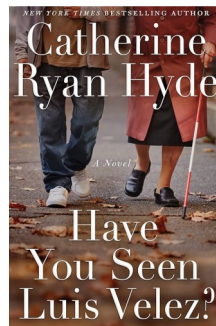
All are invited to join the Reformation Library Book Club via zoom for our always lively book discussions. Contact Laura Reiter at [longreiter@gmail.com](mailto:longreiter@gmail.com) for more details.

### 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 connections 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.

## Advent Icon Retreat




From **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. Visit [unitedlutheranseminary.edu/calendar/kindling-faith](http://unitedlutheranseminary.edu/calendar/kindling-faith) to register.



## 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).

### 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 then enter 610 356 1824 as the meeting number

### Pub Theology




GRACE  
Lutheran Church

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

DECEMBER 17, 2025  
5:30 PM AT THE ALE HOUSE IN  
NEWTOWN SQUARE


Of all the names and titles for Jesus, what is your favorite and why? Do any confuse you?




### 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.

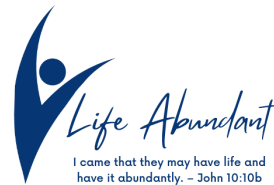


## Council Highlights

The November Council meeting included the following highlights:

- Recommended the proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws, as set forth by the 2025 Churchwide Assembly, for vote and adoption at the 2026 Annual Congregational Meeting.
- Approved repairs for the Sanctuary Piano to be funded through the Leibig Endowment Fund

### 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

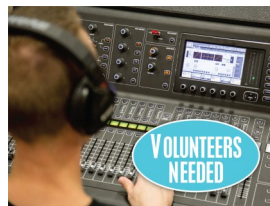
process before we break ground. Thank you for your continued, generous support of our Capital Campaign projects! More information is always available at [relcmedia.org/lifeabundant](http://relcmedia.org/lifeabundant).

### Life Center Update

Our next serving date is **January 22**. 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](mailto:yanky68@icloud.com) or 610-719-7190.



### 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.





## 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 Alina spoke at the Media courthouse for the Domestic Abuse Project of Delaware County's victim and survivor tribute on October 9.



Pastor Eileen leads a celebratory Sermon on the Steps on Reformation Sunday, October 26.



On October 14, the Upper Providence Township Council passed a resolution in celebration of Reformation's 75th anniversary of service to the community.



Bishop Penman was the Presider for our 75th Anniversary worship on October 26.

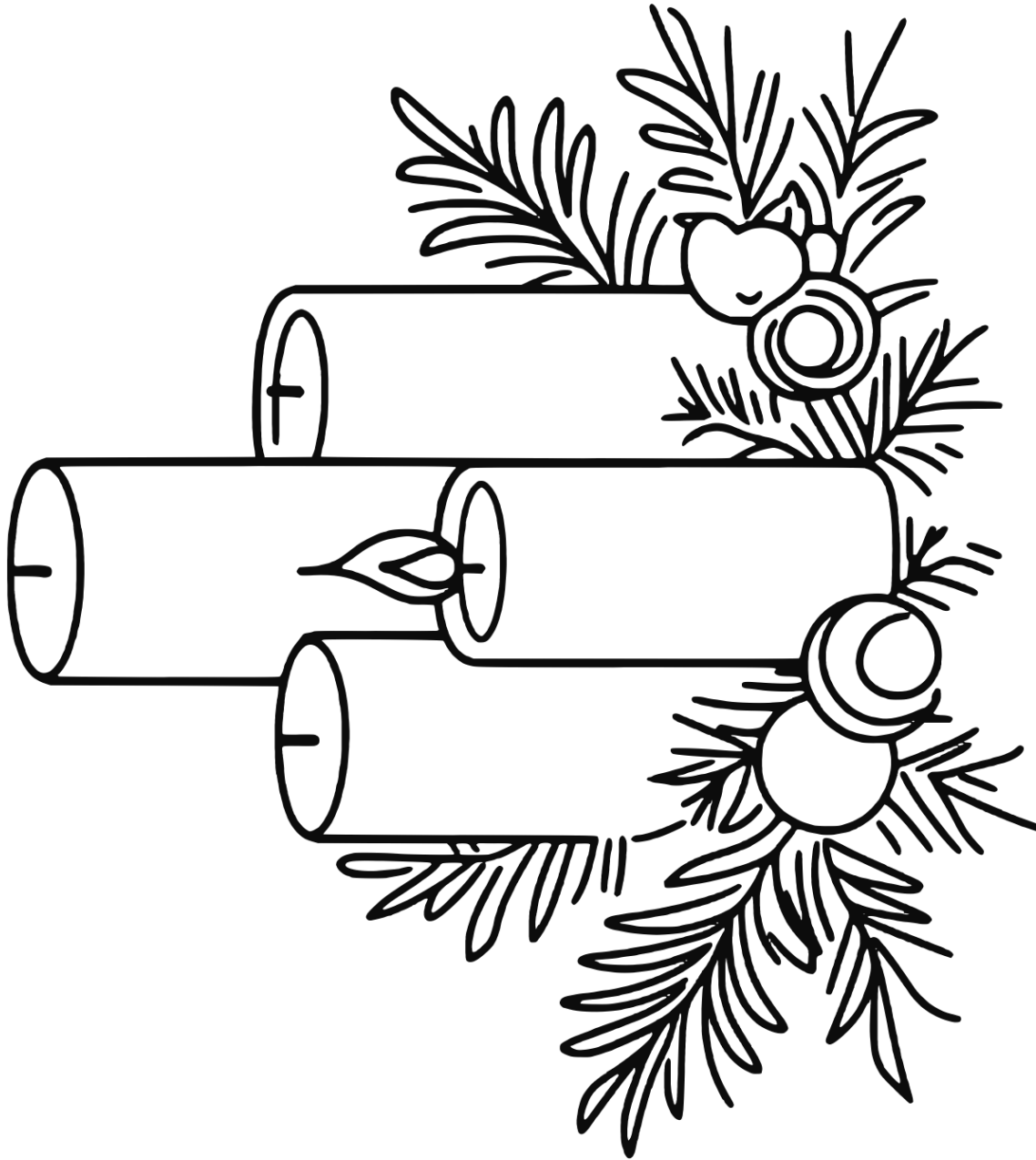


We had great weather and a great turnout for our annual "Trunk or Treat" on October 26.



Pastor Alina and friends getting in the Halloween spirit on Sunday, October 26.





*Joy to the World!*



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

## December 2025

**MISSION:** Called by Christ, we **INVITE** all people, **SERVE** our neighbors, and **BUILD** a living faith.

**WELCOME:** Called by Christ we invite all people, celebrating the diversity of God's creation. Reformation is an affirming congregation for all: rejoicing with the young and old, welcoming people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, working to cultivate an accessible and inclusive community for all abilities, and embracing all races, cultures, and faith traditions.

We serve our neighbors following the teachings of Christ. Reformation responds to the needs of the most vulnerable - providing nourishment and comfort, supporting the work of the local and global church, and protecting God's creation for future generations.

We build a living faith emboldened by the Holy Spirit. Reformation embodies the unconditional love of God through worshiping and learning together and valuing the gifts of everyone. To create the fullness of our community of faith, we nurture relationships, pursue racial equity and gender justice, and advocate for the wellbeing of the marginalized.

Sunday, December 7

St. Nicholas Day

Saturday, December 20

Delaware County Children's  
Chorus performs at 4 pm

Sunday, December 21

Blessing and Hanging  
of the Greens

Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Eve Worship at  
2 pm, 4 pm, 6 pm and 8 pm

Thursday, December 25

Christmas Worship at 10:00 am  
(Online only)

Saturday, December 27

Blood Drive 9 am - 2 pm