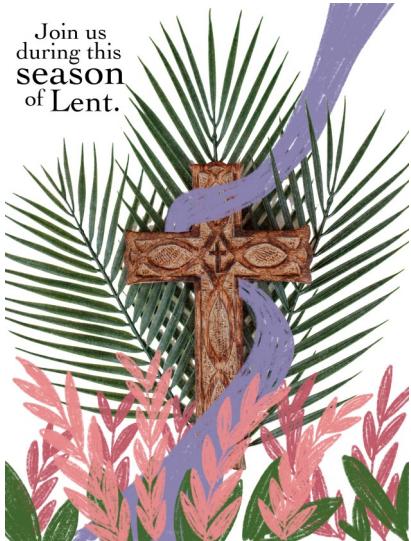


# REFORMATION TIMES

February 2026



## Ash Wednesday

We will mark the beginning of our Lent journey on Ash Wednesday with worship at both 12 noon and 7:30 pm. Both services will include the imposition of ashes and communion. The 7:30 pm service will be live streamed. We look forward to you joining us for worship on **February 18**.

## Ashes on the Way

Ashes will be distributed on **February 18**, 5:00-6:00 pm under the portico at the front main entrance. Stop by any time during this hour for a brief, 3-4 minute gathering for prayer and the imposition of ashes.

## Midweek Lent Soup Supper and Evening Worship

Each Wednesday in Lent following Ash Wednesday, we invite you to gather for a soup supper and fellowship at 6:30 pm in Creighton Hall. The soup supper will be followed by Holden Evening Prayer in the sanctuary at 7:30 pm. The first gathering will be held on **February 25**. You are welcome to join us for both – or come and join us at the start of worship. If you are able to bring soup or bread to the meal, please sign up in the lobby.

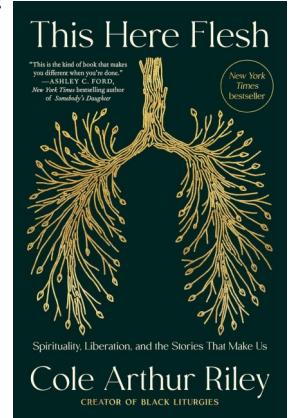
## Age to Age - Lent Art Installation

Join us to ponder how the steadfast love of God shines on us in this, and every, age.

## Lent Book

Read along with us this Lent! Our 2026 Lent Book is *This Here Flesh: Spirituality, Liberation, and the Stories That Make Us* by Cole Arthur Riley. Copies are available at the church, as a Kindle download, or from your favorite book seller. Contact the church office if you need assistance obtaining a copy. Connection Groups for discussion will be offered.

NOTE: This book contains stories of sexual abuse. Please read with care.



*Please see the Lent mailing or visit [reclmedia.org/lent](http://reclmedia.org/lent) for more information on these and other Lent opportunities.*

## Trip to the African American Museum



Kick off Black History Month with a trip to the African American Museum in Philadelphia! A group from Reformation will be visiting the museum on the afternoon of **February 1**, carpooling from church after worship. Contact Pastor Eileen to sign up! Information about the museum can be found at [aampmuseum.org](http://aampmuseum.org).



If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.  
1 Corinthians 12:26

**Gray Creighton** entered eternal life on **January 6**.

**Clara Ward** entered eternal life on **January 7**. A funeral service was held on January 15 at Bateman-Allen Funeral Home in Brookhaven.

## 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:

**February 1**

**February 8**

**February 15** - Acolyte & Crucifer Training  
(No Sunday School)

**February 22**

## Small Stars (Ages 0-3)



Join us for story time, play, and music for infants and toddlers on Saturday, **February 7**, at 9:30 am in the church nursery.

## Ushers Needed!

We are in need of some additional volunteers to usher during worship at both services. 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 [repcmmedia.org/75](http://repcmmedia.org/75). Treat yourself or your loved ones to new Reformation gear!



## 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@repcmmedia.org](mailto:newsletter@repcmmedia.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 **February 15** and will meet for 7 sessions unless otherwise noted. Sign up online at [reclmedia.org/connectiongroups](http://reclmedia.org/connectiongroups).

All groups are limited to 20 registrations unless otherwise noted. Registration will close on **February 9**.

## **CG 1: Evening Lent Book Discussion OR CG 2: Afternoon Tea Book Discussion**

**Tuesdays, 7:00 pm at Reformation OR Wednesdays, 2:00 pm at Reformation • Karen Chorney**

Join others for a discussion of the Lent Book, *This Here Flesh*. In her book, Cole Arthur Riley, the creator of Black Liturgies, weaves stories from three generations of her family alongside contemplative reflections to discover the “necessary rituals” that connect us with our belonging, dignity, and liberation.

## **CG 3: Adult Confirmation**

**Thursdays, 6:30 pm at Reformation (online option by request) • Pastor Eileen**

Are you new to Lutheranism? Has it been a while since you've been confirmed? Are you interested in learning more about basic tenets of Lutheran faith? Join Pastor Eileen for Adult Confirmation this Lent! Our curriculum will utilize the Small Catechism and cover similar faith topics as our 7th and 8th grade Confirmation class, such as: Commandments, Lord's Prayer, Creeds, Sacraments, Protestant Reformation, how we read the Bible, and more. Group will conclude with an Affirmation of Baptism during worship.

## **CG 4: Reading and Creating Our Blessings**

**Tuesdays, 2:00 pm at Reformation (Starting 2/24, six weeks) • Pamela Poe**

Each week, we will enjoy selected readings from two books dedicated to blessings. No book purchase is needed! John O'Donohue's "To Bless the Space Between Us" and Kate Bowler's "The Lives We Actually Have: 100 Blessings for Imperfect Days" will provide our selected readings and writing prompts for journaling, writings or drawings that follow. After group members read together the selected blessings for the week, there is time to create blessings, prayers or simple artworks in response with optional sharing.

## **CG 5: Faith and Civic Life**

**Sundays, 9:45 am at Reformation (six weeks) • Pastor Alina**

The newest ELCA Social Statement is titled *Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All*. During this group we will explore how social statements (and social messages) are created, their role in the ELCA, and how we might be in conversation and discernment around the topics brought up by this statement.

## **CG 6: Game Night**

**Fridays, 7:00 pm at the Forsters • Kristen and Brian Forster**

Come enjoy fellowship and snacks/dinner over a rousing vintage board game! Fun for adults of all ages! We have tons of vintage games or bring your own.

## **CG 7: Lenten Lunch Bunch**

**Saturdays, 12:00 noon at Various Locations • John Grantland**

Join us for lunch during Lent! The food selections will go where the fellowship takes us. They may be eclectic, they will not be heart healthy, but most certainly fun! Looking forward to spending time together during one of my favorite seasons of the year.

## **CG 8: Rooted in Wonder**

**Wednesdays, 7:00 pm at the Leighton-Clarke Residence (Starting 2/25, six weeks)**

**Kathie Leighton and Louise Clarke**

This six-week journey, titled "Rooted in Wonder," offers a unique space where the lyrical observations of Aimee Nezhukumatathil's *World of Wonders* meet the ancient botanical wisdom of the Bible. Each week, we will gather to explore a specific "theme of wonder"—such as resilience, grace, or hidden beginnings—linking a contemporary essay to a specific Biblical plant.

## **CG 9: Color Your Blessings**

**Thursdays, 6:30 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!

## Mark E. Davis Scholarship



The Mark E. Davis Scholarship was established by The Rev. William and Irene Davis, following the death of their son, Mark. The scholarship is a one-year scholarship to a four-year college or university awarded to members of Reformation Lutheran Church. Applicants can be high school seniors or currently attending a college or university. The scholarship is awarded to applicants who demonstrate a high level of academic, religious, and community-oriented commitment and achievement. The scholarship is awarded annually in the May-June time frame.

Applications may be obtained from the counter in the church lobby or from the Reformation website at [relcmedia.org/internshipsscholarships](http://relcmedia.org/internshipsscholarships). Applications can only be submitted by email (in PDF file format) and must be received on or before the **May 1, 2026** deadline by email at [davisscholarship@relcmedia.org](mailto:davisscholarship@relcmedia.org). No other form of submission will be accepted. Applicants should be aware that requesting transcripts can take extra time and should plan accordingly in order to meet the deadline.

## SOUPer Bowl Sunday



Vote for which team will <sup>SM</sup> win the big game by bringing in non perishable items for Chester Eastside. Items will be collected between

**January 25 and February 8**, and may be placed on the tables in the hallway. Thank you for your support!

## Faith and Family Newsletter



e-newsletter with prayers, readings, and activities for each liturgical season - designed for children, youth, and families.

Scan below to register for our seasonal "Faith and Family"



## UPCOMING Concerts

### Join Us at Reformation for the Following Concerts:

**Susquehanna University Choir**

**Monday, March 2**

**7:00 pm at Reformation**



Featuring the University Choir and Chamber Singers, with conductor, Amy Vorhees.

**Thomas Keeseker**

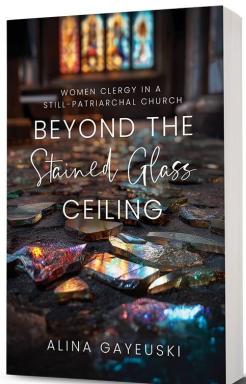
**Sunday, March 22**

**3:00 pm at Reformation**



Thomas Keeseker retired in 2019 after serving as a church musician for over 40 years in Lutheran and Roman Catholic parishes in Virginia, Montana, and Maryland. In his retirement he travels the country sharing his piano collections in informal recitals which incorporate hymn singing, readings, and poetry.

## Celebrate Pastor Alina's Book Launch!



### Book Launch Eve Champagne Toast Sunday, March 1 4:00 pm at Reformation

Reformation members and friends are invited to a "Book Launch Eve" champagne toast at Reformation on Sunday, March 1, at 4:00 pm. This event is free and all are welcome! Books will be available for purchase and signing.

### Official Launch Event Tuesday, March 3 7:00 pm at United Lutheran Seminary

The official launch includes an evening at the seminary's Philadelphia campus, a special presentation, and book signing. Registration for this event is through Kindling Faith ([kindlingfaith.com](http://kindlingfaith.com)) and is \$25 per person which includes a copy of the book. If you are interested in carpooling to the event or need help registering, please contact Pastor Eileen.

## Life Center Update



Our next serving date is Thursday, **March 26**. 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, [yank68@icloud.com](mailto:yank68@icloud.com) or 610-719-7190.

## Reformation School Corner

by Erin Hayes



Reformation Nursery School and Reformation After-K enjoyed an exciting first half of the school year! Nursery School students were busy with multiple performances for their families on Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas and continue to enjoy Chapel Time with Pastor Eileen and Pastor Alina. To fortify our curriculum unit on snow and ice, we welcomed Digger and David for a special science assembly. After-K students are flexing their play muscles in multiple new dramatic play areas- from Santa's workshop to a bakery to a veterinarian office! They especially love Watercolor Wednesdays- where students are invited to make a beautiful new watercolor painting every week.

We look forward to a robust second term with parent teacher conferences and a special visit from Judy Tudy in the spring.

## Finance Smart

by Christine Corson



Have you ever thought of making your gift to Reformation easier for you? Giving to Reformation is easier than ever! You can use a credit card, Venmo, Text to Give (844-628-3176), write a check, and of course, cash. But let's say you are not able to attend in person services or you prefer to attend worship online. If you are set up on recurring giving, your gift to Reformation gets there regardless of your attendance choice or the weather! There's no commitment and it's easy to cancel at any time. Recurring donations make your life easier because it's one less thing you need to think about and that makes you...**Finance Smart!!!**

If you need assistance with setting up recurring donations, please contact a church staff member at [rlc@relcmmedia.org](mailto:rlc@relcmmedia.org) or call the church office at 610-891-0600.

## Upcoming Youth Events



- **February 1** - Breakfast Club, Confirmation
- **February 8** - Confirmation with Mentors & Parents
- **February 20-21** - Youth Group Lock In (7 pm to 7 am)
- **February 22** - Confirmation

## Breakfast Items Collection



During January and February, the Breakfast Club (High School) Sunday School Class is collecting non-perishable breakfast items for Caring for Friends. What is needed:

- **Juice box or shelf stable milk/ chocolate milk**
- **Single oatmeal packets**
- **Cereal bars/granola bars (high- protein bars are appreciated)**
- **Tea bags or instant coffee, instant hot cocoa packets**
- **Fruit cups (with plastic lids or all metal only), fruit/vegetable squeeze pouches (such as Motts or GoGoSqueeze) \***
- **Packs of peanut butter crackers or another treat**

\*Please note: Do NOT include fresh food, muffins, TastyKakes (they get mushy), chips, apple sauce with thin aluminum foil tops (they break easily in transit – pouches are best).

If you would like to contribute, please put your donation in the box in the narthex. Thank you so much for your consideration!



## Upcoming Events

Visit the websites listed below to register!

- 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 by **March 31** and receive a free 2026 themed t-shirt. \*Full payments and optional add-ons like rafting and the camp store wallet will be available starting **January 5** at [bearcreekcamp.org/camps/summer-camp](http://bearcreekcamp.org/camps/summer-camp).
- Use code RLCM50 for \$50 off your registration for summer 2026!



## ASP Superbowl Fundraiser

Our Youth Group is excited to participate in the *Appalachia Service Project* this summer in West Virginia. This experience is an important opportunity for our youth to put faith into action through service, teamwork, and compassion.

To help make this mission trip possible, we are hosting a **Super Bowl Block Pool** as a fun and simple way to support the youth. All proceeds will go directly toward our fundraising goal of **\$3,500**, helping cover travel, materials, and program costs.

Your participation, whether you join a square, share the opportunity, or keep our youth in prayer—makes a meaningful difference. Thank you for supporting our young people as they grow in faith and serve others.

If you'd like to participate or learn more, please reach out to Pat Polilli. We are grateful for your continued encouragement and support. Scan to play!



## Acolyte and Crucifer Training



Are you interested in becoming an Acolyte or a Crucifer? If so, please join Pastor Eileen on Sunday, **February 15** at 9:45 am for training.



# FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Reformation,

"I would hurl words into this darkness and wait for an echo, and if an echo sounded, no matter how faintly, I would send other words to tell, to march, to fight, to create a sense of the hunger for life that gnaws in us all." - Richard Wright

As we prepare to enter into the season of Lent, we turn our attention to the ways in which our world needs the breath of God. Our Lent book, *This Here Flesh*, is written by Cole Arthur Riley. Riley is also the creator of the *Black Liturgies* project on social media, and her first book of the same name. Her work includes breath prayers, poems, and meditations to strengthen us for the work we are called to do as children of God in a weary world. We share in one of Riley's breath prayers together:

INHALE: Lord, transform my hungers.

EXHALE: Let my desires be for justice.

In Peace,

Pastor Eileen (she/her)



## Thank You from Valerie Rozek!



Dear Pastors and Members of Reformation,

I came to Reformation from Messiah Lutheran in Newtown Square eleven or so years ago, not knowing if it was the right decision, but you needed a traditional church musician, and I was in need of a position. It was indeed the right decision and a blessing to me to be involved with such caring clergy and a wonderful, supportive congregation.

A church musician does not worship the Lord through music alone. It takes pastors and the congregation to sing liturgies and hymns, a choir to sing anthems or ring handbells, and vocal and instrumental soloists to share their gifts. All of this, I have had the privilege of being a part of during my time at Reformation. The Lord has been with us through our triumphs and challenges. I have been honored to know and remember those from the congregation who have passed on to the church triumphant. And, I thank you for all the wonderful services and festival days we have shared, especially our most recent 75th anniversary celebration.

I enjoyed talking with so many of you at the reception held in my honor. Your kind words mean more than you know. I will be taking a break for a few weeks and then will play in a substitute capacity if and where the opportunities arise. Thank you so much, Reformation-- for everything!

SOLI DEO GLORIA

*Valerie*

varozek@gmail.com





## EVERYDAY FAITH



Learn about faith traditions other than your own

### Everyday Faith:

#### What You Didn't Know You Needed to Know.

In a world that often pushes us toward quick judgments and polarization, *Everyday Faith* is an invitation to slow down, get curious, and engage with the complex ways that religion, spirituality, and worldview shape our daily lives.

This interactive workshop series offers a space to learn, ask questions, and connect across the many ways our friends, colleagues, and neighbors orient around religion.

A signature feature of the *Everyday Faith* experience is our *Living Library* format — offering a unique opportunity to engage directly with individuals from a variety of faiths, spiritual paths, and worldviews.

Facilitated by Rev. Edward Livingston, Director of Community Partnerships and Trina Gary, Executive Consultant and Leadership Coach

#### Upcoming programs:

##### **Everyday Faith: Muslim Holy Days**

**Wednesday, February 4**

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Virtual

##### **Everyday Faith: Bahá'í Holy Days**

**Thursday, March 12**

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Virtual

For more information and to register, please visit [interfaithphiladelphia.org/everyday-faith](http://interfaithphiladelphia.org/everyday-faith).



## ECO MINISTRY UPDATES

### Eco Tip for February

by John Berberich

Feeling sick inside this winter? So is the air inside your home. Follow these simple tips to keep your home and family healthy.

- Keep your house clean of dust mites, animal dander and other pollutants by cleaning often and using fans to vent to the outdoors.
- Prevent moisture buildup and keep humidity levels below 50%.
- Make sure cleaners are natural - avoid toxic sprays and air fresheners.

#### SAVE THE DATE!

### Eco Movie Night

Join us on Friday, **March 13**

at 7:00 pm - with popcorn and snacks - for our annual movie night and conversation. This year's feature is "What Nature Teaches Us About Giving Back." More details to come!



#### SAVE THE DATE!

### Rose Tree Road Clean Up



Join us as we care for God's creation by cleaning up Rose Tree Road! The Spring Road Clean Up is scheduled for Saturday, **March 21**, at 10:00 am. This is typically an hour of clean up work. Contact John Berberich ([jduckberb@aol.com](mailto:jduckberb@aol.com)) to sign up or with any questions.

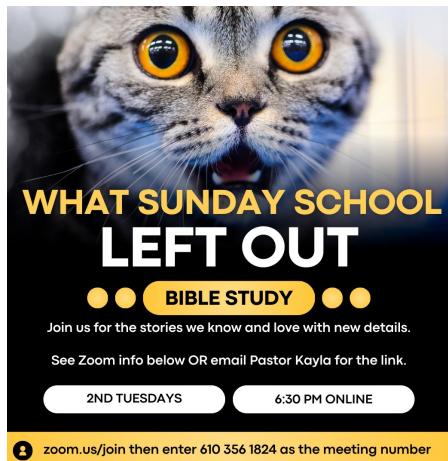
### PAR Recycle Works

The next community e-waste recycling event will be held on Saturday, **March 14**, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Haverford Township building in Havertown, PA. For more information, please visit [par-recycleworks.org/upcoming-events](http://par-recycleworks.org/upcoming-events).

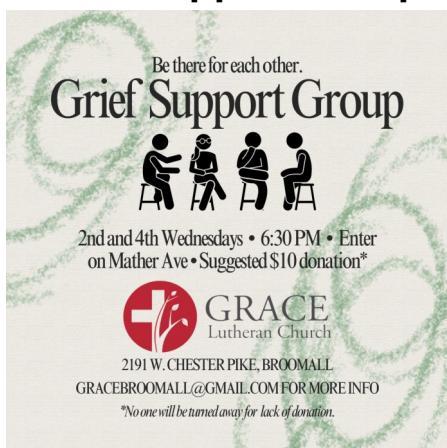
## Upcoming Events at Grace Lutheran, Broomall

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



### Grief Support Group



### Join the Lunch Bunch!

The “lunch bunch” will be gathering on Thursday, **February 5** at Margaret Kuo’s at the Promenade Granite Run. Reach out to Edna Bogert or Phyllis Brady for more details!



## Council Highlights

The January Council meeting included these highlights:

- Review of 2025 Financial Report and recommendation of the 2026 Proposed Budget to the Congregational Meeting
- Approval of donations from Endowment Outreach to the Making a Change Group and United Lutheran Seminary
- Approval of new members

### 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 [reclmedia.org/lifeabundant](http://reclmedia.org/lifeabundant).

### 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.

### Blood Drive

Reformation's December blood drive was quite a success. 33 units of blood were collected, which will help up to 99 patients in need! Our next Red Cross Blood Drive is on Saturday, **March 14**, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. To register, please visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org).





## 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).



Gray Creighton celebrated his 100th birthday on December 8. He entered eternal life on January 6.



The Flaten family lighting the Advent candles on Sunday, December 21.



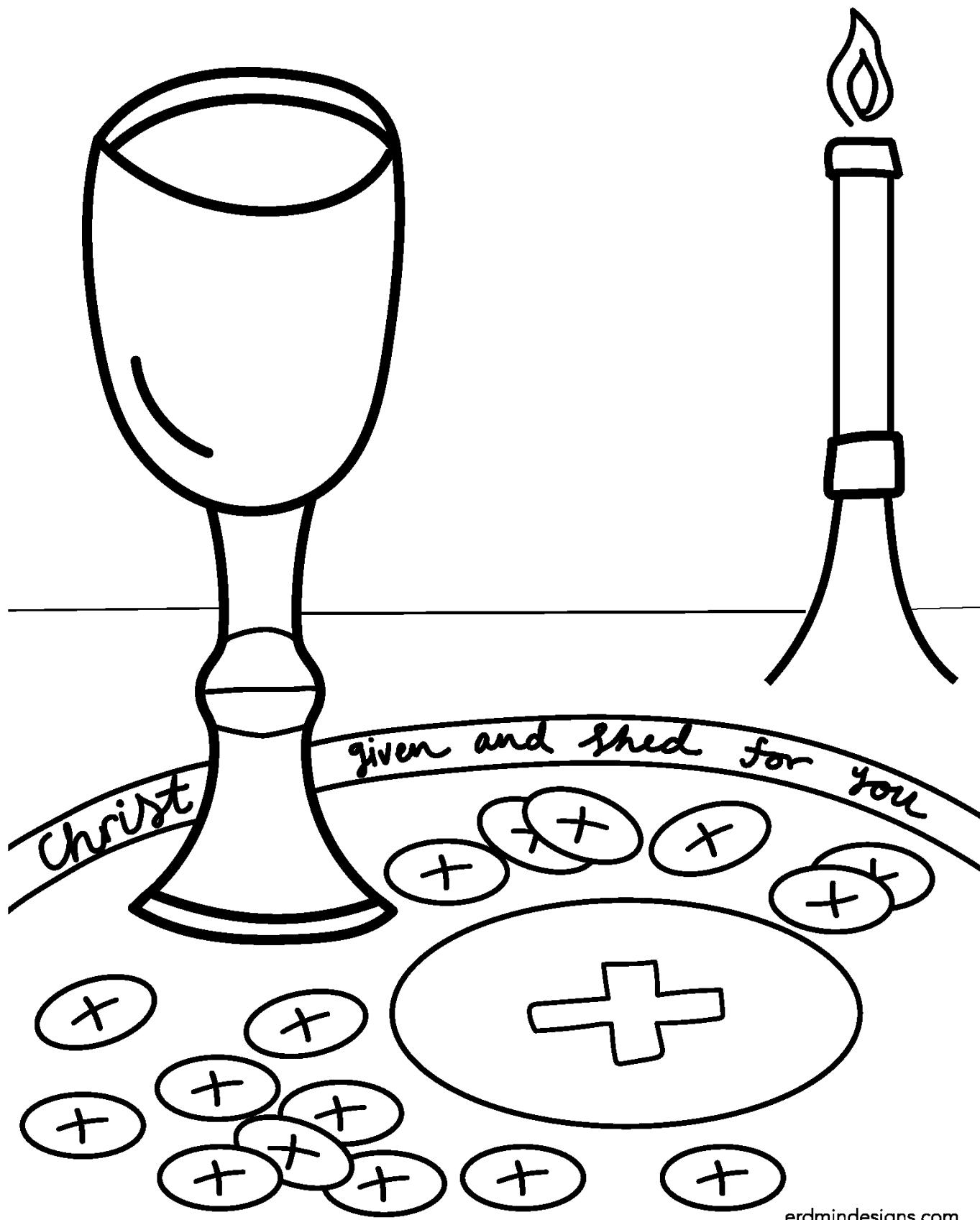
We had lots of helpers of all ages for the Hanging of the Greens on December 21!



Phyllis Brady, Pastor Eileen and Pastor Alina packing up food bags to be delivered to Family and Community Services for Second Time Around Parents on December 10.



Vicar Megan, Pastor Eileen and Pastor Alina were feeling festive after the last of four services on December 24!



erdmindesigns.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. Gayeusk

The Rev. Eileen Ruppel-Doan

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## REFORMATION TIMES

### February 2026

**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, February 8

SOUper Bowl Sunday

Wednesday, February 18

Ash Wednesday

12 noon and 7:30 pm services

Friday, February 20

Youth Group Lock In  
(7:00 pm to 7:00 am)