
REFORMATION TIMES

April 2026



Holy Week

Our Holy Week worship and gatherings enable us to journey with Jesus from the shouts of Hosana during his triumphant entry into Jerusalem, to the cross, and finally to the empty tomb. Join us for these special services and other opportunities for fellowship.

This year we are partnering with our neighbors at Grace Lutheran in Broomall (2191 West Chester Pike) for some joint worship opportunities. All Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday worship services will be at Reformation and all but the “Sonrise” worship will be live streamed. Please note the time and location for the other Holy Week services below.

Palm/Passion Sunday – March 29

Worship at 8:30 and 11:00 am

Palm Sunday Celebration at 9:45

We start our Holy Week journey with palms and the reading of the passion. Join us for a special celebration at 9:45 am in the pavilion to celebrate Palm Sunday!

Maundy Thursday – April 2

Wine and Cheese Reception at 6:30 pm

at Grace Lutheran, Broomall

Worship at 7:30 pm

at Grace Lutheran, Broomall

We begin the three days with our neighbors at Grace Lutheran. A wine and cheese reception will precede worship.

Good Friday – April 3

Worship at 12 noon at

Reformation (not live streamed)

We gather for our noon service to hear the passion.

Good Friday – April 3

Worship at 7:30 pm at Reformation

We will have evening worship, with the gospel of John, songs, and prayer.

Easter Vigil – April 4

Worship at 7:30 pm at Reformation

Guest preacher:

Pastor Annemarie Hartner Cook

This service is one of the oldest traditions in the church. We welcome Pastor Annemarie Hartner Cook as our guest preacher.

Easter Day – April 5

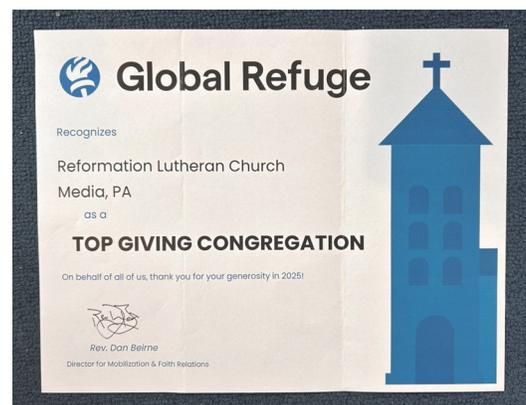
“Sonrise” Worship at 6:15 am in the pavilion

Worship at 8:30 and 11:00 in the sanctuary and live streamed

Celebrate Christ’s triumph over the grave! There will be no Sunday School classes on Easter Day.



Top Giving Recognition



Reformation has been recognized by Global Refuge as one of the Top 100 giving congregations for 2025. Our donations have directly helped food, shelter, mental health support, safety and dignity remain accessible for some of our most vulnerable neighbors. For more information about Global Refuge, please visit GlobalRefuge.org.



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

1 Corinthians 12:26

Colin John Pitonyak, son of Sabrina and John Pitonyak, was baptized on **February 22**.

Logan Piasecki received his first communion on **March 1**.

Nicholas Bonaventure, Rhys Caruso, Colton Lesser, Nico Matro and **Ethan Merkins** received their Bibles during worship on **March 22**.

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:

April 12

April 19 - Eco Sunday

April 26

Small Stars (Ages 0-3)



Join us for story time, play, and music for infants and toddlers on Saturday, **April 11**, at 9:30 am in the church nursery.

Ushers Needed!



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 relcmedia.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 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.



AT REFORMATION, MEDIA

SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH
6PM-8PM

COMMUNITY MOMENT AT 7PM

LOCATION: OUTDOOR PAVILION AT REFORMATION, MEDIA

COST: FREE

DRESS CODE: CAMP CASUAL

**FUN INCLUDES: GOURMET S'MORES, COZY CAMPFIRES,
DESSERTS, APPETIZERS, AND YARD GAMES**

HOSTED BY: REFORMATION, MEDIA

REGISTER@

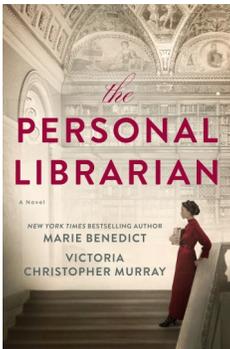
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**SCAN
ME!**



*Celebrate Community
and
Raise Funds for Camperships*

Library Book Club News



All are welcome to join our Church Library Book Club discussion of *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict. We will meet via Zoom on **April 28** at 7:00pm. Contact Laura Reiter at longreiter@gmail.com for more information.

From *GoodReads*:

The remarkable, little-known story of Belle da Costa Greene, J. P. Morgan's personal librarian—who became one of the most powerful women in New York despite the dangerous secret she kept in order to make her dreams come true, from *New York Times* bestselling author Marie Benedict and acclaimed author Victoria Christopher Murray.

In her twenties, Belle da Costa Greene is hired by J. P. Morgan to curate a collection of rare manuscripts, books, and artwork for his newly built Pierpont Morgan Library. Belle becomes a fixture on the New York society scene and one of the most powerful people in the art and book world, known for her impeccable taste and shrewd negotiating for critical works as she helps build a world-class collection.

But Belle has a secret, one she must protect at all costs. She was born not Belle da Costa Greene but Belle Marion Greener. She is the daughter of Richard Greener, the first Black graduate of Harvard and a well-known advocate for equality. Belle's complexion isn't dark because of her alleged Portuguese heritage that lets her pass as white—her complexion is dark because she is African American.

The Personal Librarian tells the story of an extraordinary woman, famous for her intellect, style, and wit, and shares the lengths to which she must go—for the protection of her family and her legacy—to preserve her carefully crafted white identity in the racist world in which she lives.

Finance Smart

by Christine Corson

The Five “Be’s” to being ...
Finance Smart!!!



Be Aware - Learn how to spot scams to keep your identity safe.

Be Budget-Minded - Create and follow a weekly budget to keep your income and expenses on track.

Be On Time - Pay your bills by the due date if you're able. Your reward will be an increase in your credit score!

Be Organized - Keep bills organized by due date and file receipts and important documents consistently.

Be Responsible - Don't spend money that you do not have on unnecessary items.

How many more “Finance Be’s” can you think of?

Lenten Care Kits

Bags should be returned (with the list enclosed) to Reformation by Easter Sunday, **April 5**. Thank you for your support of Cradles to Crayons and Phoenix Recovery Houses!

DAP Sip & Shop



Reformation is sponsoring a “Sip and Shop” event at Thrift and Thrive in Pilgrim Gardens, Drexel Hill, PA. Join us on Thursday, **April 16**, from 5:30 to 7:30 at Thrift and Thrive. Did you know that a \$25 purchase at Thrift & Thrive can provide food and other basic necessities for a survivor through Domestic Abuse Project of Delaware County, Inc. (DAP)? For entry to the event please donate one or more pieces of gently loved or new clothing, handbags, shoes, housewares or decor. All proceeds support survivors of domestic abuse. For more information, please visit dapdc.org/take-action/events.

Please scan the QR code to RSVP:



Pastor Alina's Book Launch Highlights



Reformation School Corner

by Hannah D'Aquanno



Stay and Play has been full of excitement and discovery lately as the kids have been staying busy with a wide range of activities. From creative crafts, hands on science experiments, interactive games, and our Peacemakers Program, there has been something for everyone to enjoy. One of the highlights of the past few weeks was welcoming some special visitors. We had a visit from Stars on the Move, where the children were able to learn more about constellations, planets, stars, and the weather. Another memorable visit came from Quiver Farms, giving the kids the opportunity to learn more about animals in an interactive way. With the weather starting to warm up, there is also a lot of excitement in the air about getting to go outside again. The kids are looking forward to spending more time outdoors, playing games, and enjoying the fresh air with their friends. We are proud of how engaged and enthusiastic the children have been throughout all of these activities, and we look forward to many more exciting moments as the season continues.

Piano Rededication and Blessing



Join us at 10:00 am on Sunday, **April 26** to celebrate the improved sound of our refurbished piano! Erik will play some pieces to show off the new sound and will

accompany both choirs for choral selections during this time. We will also offer a prayer of rededication and thanksgiving for the life and ministry of David Leibig – a former Reformation Director of Music. The Leibig Music Endowment Fund provided the funds to make this work possible.

Life Center Update and Supply Collection



Our next serving date is Thursday, **May 28**. 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.

Installation at UUCDC

Rev. Dr. Laura Solomon will be installed at Unitarian Universalist Church of Delaware County on Saturday, **April 18**, starting at 2:00 pm. Please RSVP at uucdc.breezechms.com/form/67f0b2.



Called Together, Shaped by Love

Join us for the installation of
Rev. Dr. Laura Solomon
at the
Unitarian Universalist Church
of Delaware County

April 18th, 2026, 2 - 3pm
Reception following
145 W Rose Tree Road,
Media, PA 19063

Installation service will be livestreamed
Please RSVP at <https://bit.ly/4aCuBm6> for
Zoom link

**Clergy and religious professionals of all
faith traditions are invited to gather at
1pm for the processional.**

What is an installation?

In Unitarian Universalism, an Installation is the congregational act of formally entering into shared ministry with a settled minister. During the ritual the minister and congregation enter into covenant, move into shared ministry with one another, and receive blessings from the wider UU community. It is a celebration of the community we will build together.

Traditionally held toward the end of the minister's first year, the Installation is an opportunity for the wider Unitarian Universalist faith to bestow blessings on the minister and the congregation, and a chance to celebrate and uphold community partnerships and relationships. An installation is an important public milestone—celebrating the successful search process and the start of a shared journey forward.

Upcoming Youth Events



- **April 12** - Breakfast Club, Confirmation, Youth Group (12 pm—2 pm)
- **April 19** - Eco Sunday
- **April 26** - Confirmation with Mentors

SAVE THE DATE!

Vacation Bible School



Join us for "Just Like Me," a garden-themed VBS program that celebrates community, inclusion, and justice. VBS will run **July 6 - 9** from 5:30 - 7:30 PM for children age 3 through completed 5th grade. Register at myvbs.org/relcmedia or contact Pastor Eileen with questions.



Upcoming Events

Visit the websites listed below to register!

- Summer Camp Registration **NOW OPEN**
June 21—August 14, 2026  BEAR CREEK CAMP 2026
- Visit bearcreekcamp.org/camps/summer-camp for more information and to register!



"I was a stranger and you welcomed me."
Matt. 25:35

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

The Easter season is upon us, one that takes us into the story of Jesus's disciples living out their mission to continue Jesus's work in the world in a new way. We at Reformation will be observing this season with a new immigration justice program open to the congregation. Reformation will be entering into training for Global Refuge's Faith Alliance program, a new network for faith communities that wish to deepen and inform their commitment to welcoming refugee and immigrant neighbors. YOU are invited to help us in this work by joining our Faith Alliance program, now through Pentecost! The program includes:

A series of short, **self-paced online trainings** on immigration, Scripture, and keys to being a safe and welcoming congregation for immigrants, now through **May 24**.

A **Participant Retreat** on **June 7**, when we will build Reformation's congregational covenant to welcome the stranger in our congregation and community. This covenant will serve as Reformation's entry point into Global Refuge's Faith Alliance network.

For more information or to register, visit our new Immigration Justice web page at relcmedia.org/immigration or scan the code below. We hope you'll join us as we are moved by the Spirit in this work, as She guides us in love of neighbor and welcome of stranger.

In Peace,

Pastor Eileen (she/her)



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. Applications may be obtained from the counter in the church lobby or from the Reformation website at 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. 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.

SAVE THE DATE!

Ascension Day Worship

Join the congregations of SEPA Synod's Delaware Conference for Ascension Day worship on Thursday, **May 14** at Reformation. A light dinner will be at 6:30 pm followed by worship at 7:30 pm. The Rev. Dr. Teresa Smallwood, Dean of United Lutheran Seminary, will be the preacher. Contact Pastor Eileen to volunteer for the hospitality portion of this event.



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.



Neighbors Protecting Neighbors

An interfaith training on loving our neighbors in response to immigration enforcement will be held on Monday, April 20, from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. (Delco location shared upon registration). Please visit tinyurl.com/neighbors610 to register.



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: Sikh Holy Days

Wednesday, April 8

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Virtual

Everyday Faith: Buddhist Holy Days

Wednesday, May 13

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Virtual

For more information and to register, please visit interfaithphiladelphia.org/everyday-faith.



Eco Sunday



Celebrate Eco Sunday on **April 19!** We will welcome K Ruth, Executive Director of PA Interfaith Power and Light as our guest that day. PA IPL is an organization that works to

cultivate a religious response to climate change. K will speak about the work of PA IPL during worship and lead an education hour program at 9:45. Special education programming for our Sunday School students will also be held that day. All are welcome!

April Eco Tip

by *Christine Corson and Jamie Anderson*

Have you ever heard of Conservation Landscaping?



According to GrowingGreenerCommunities.org, conservation landscaping is the practice of replacing turf grasses or hard surfaces with local native plants, shrubs, and/or trees.

Now that spring has arrived, you might consider rethinking how you manage turf grasses in an eco-friendly way that reduces fertilizer and pesticide use. This will involve removing some of your lawn area that doesn't support wildlife. Pollinators, which are also good for birds and other species, are struggling with our non-native habitat, and sadly the lack of native plants reduces a habitat.

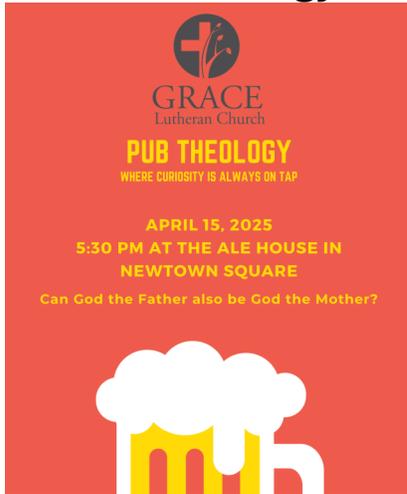
Starting a conservation landscape is not difficult and can be as easy as planting a few native plants in pots around the outside of your home or extensive as removing large areas of sod from your lawn and planting more native plants to create a meadow.

If you're interested in learning more about conservation landscaping, visit these websites: growinggreenercommunities.org/conservation-landscaping or HomegrownNationalPark.org.

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 or visit gracebroomall.org/events.

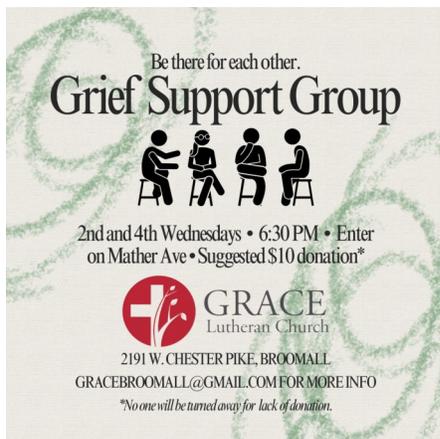
Pub Theology



Community Dinner



Grief Support Group

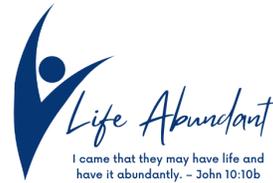


Council Highlights

The March Council meeting included these highlights:

- Updates regarding the Capital Campaign projects and relationship with Grace, Broomall
- Appointment of voting members to Synod Assembly

Capital Campaign Update



We received our permits for the Reflection Garden project on Ash Wednesday. Details have been confirmed with contractors and work is beginning

before the end of March. We are looking forward to having the garden complete by late spring/early summer! Learn more or contribute to the final project of our Capital Campaign at relcmedia.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.

Our office mascot, Brodie, with a friendly reminder that everyone is welcome at Reformation!





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.



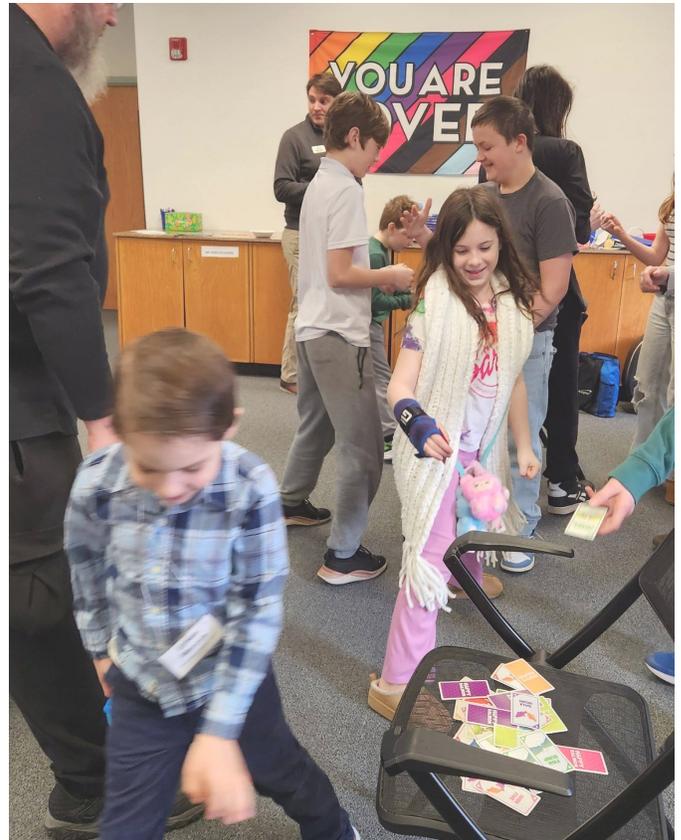
Members of the Youth Group had some fun playing laser tag during their “Lock-In” on February 20.



We love our monthly Small Stars class for infants and toddlers!



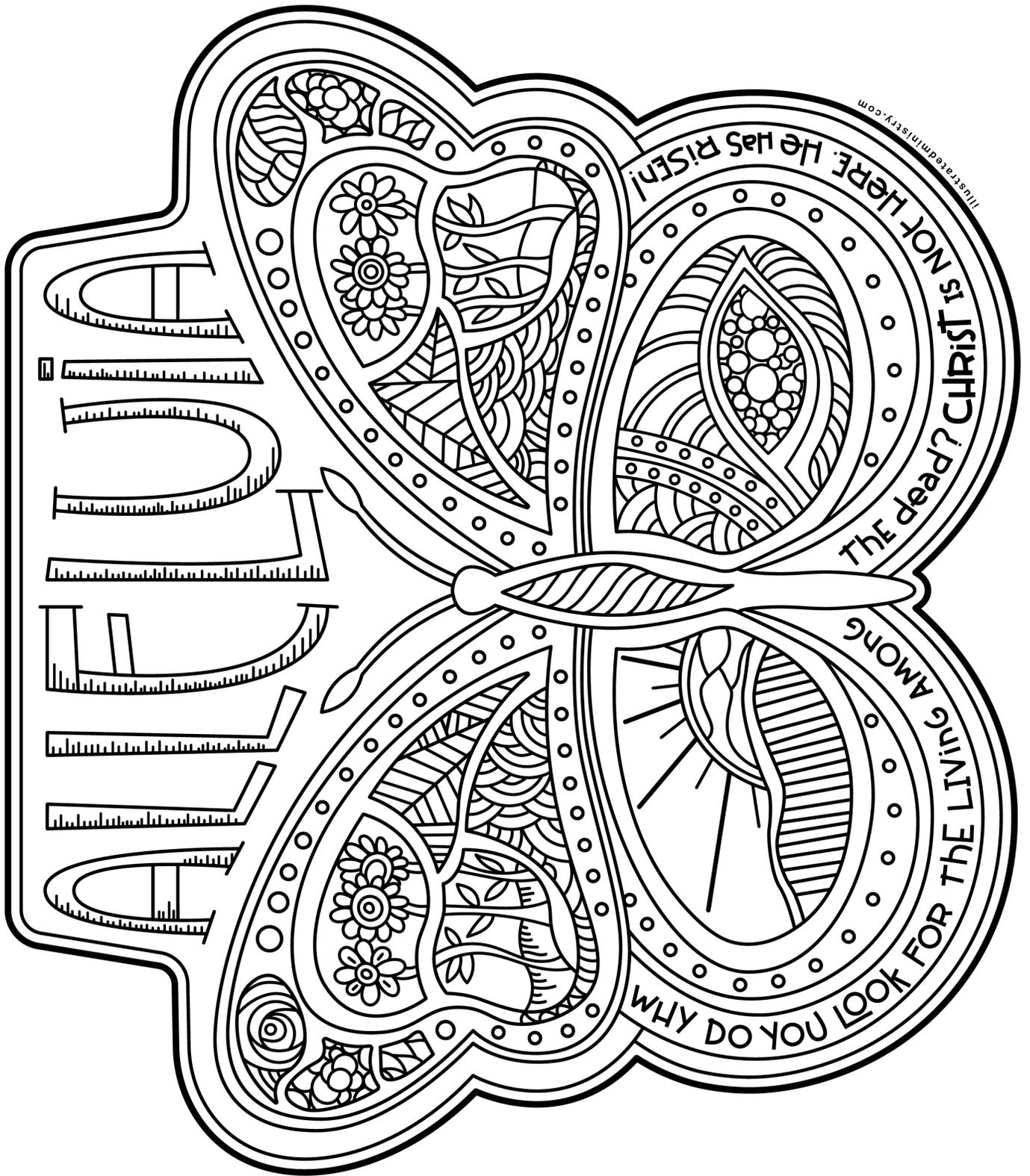
Pastor Alina had plenty of help during worship on February 22.



Group fun at Bear Creek Camp Sunday on March 8.



Edna Bogert, Linda Bucher and Uli Neubert enjoy some refreshments and socializing while at Pastor Alina’s champagne toast on March 1.



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102 W. Rose Tree Road • Media, PA 19063

relcmedia.org • 610.891.0600

Sunday Worship: 8:30 am Indoor & Online Worship

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



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REFORMATION TIMES

April 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.

Thursday, April 2

Maundy Thursday
at Grace Lutheran

Wine & Cheese Reception
at 6:30 pm

Worship at 7:30 pm

Friday, April 3

Good Friday

Worship at 12 noon and 7:30 pm

Saturday, April 4

Easter Vigil

Worship at 7:30 pm

Sunday, April 5

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“Sonrise” worship

in the pavilion at 6:15 am
Worship at 8:30 am and 11:00 am

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