
REFORMATION TIMES

August 2026

Reformation Receives ecoAmerica Grant!



Reformation received a \$1000 seed grant through ecoAmerica to begin the process of becoming a Resilience Center to provide services in the event of extreme weather. We are working closely with our neighbors at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Delaware County and Grace Lutheran Church & The Wellness Center to make this plan a reality!

If you are interested in participating in the leadership of this project, please reach out to Pastor Alina, Kathie Leighton, or Marilyn and John Berberich.

Blood Drive



Our next Red Cross Blood Drive is on Saturday, **August 15**, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. To register, please visit RedCrossBlood.org.

Lead a Connection Group this Fall!

Connection Groups will begin the week of October 4 and continue for 7 weeks. If you have an idea for a group that you would like to lead, contact one of the pastors by **August 15**.



Council Highlights

There was no Council meeting in July. Check back next month for our August meeting update!

PAR Recycle Works Upcoming Event:

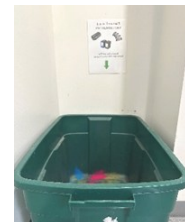


PAR-Recycle Works is a non-profit electronics recycler providing transitional employment, job

skill training and permanent job placement to people returning from prison. Your old, retired, end of life electronics are the life-blood of PAR-Recycle Works, so please donate them today. The more e-waste PAR receives, the more people it puts to work – immediately! As an employment social enterprise, PAR-Recycle Works puts people to work. It earns revenue by responsibly recycling discarded, end-of-life electronics for its Supply Partners. By employing justice-impacted people, returning home from incarceration, PAR strengthens environmentally sustainable communities and families to which our employees are returning.

The next recycling event in our area will be held on **August 8** at the Haverford Township Building at 1014 Darby Road in Havertown, PA 19083 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. To view the full schedule, please visit par-recycleworks.org/upcoming-events.

Donate Your Ink and Toner Cartridges!



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. Donate yours today!

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.

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.



Summer Hours



This is just a reminder that while our normal office hours are Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm (and closed on Fridays), with our

small staff and summer vacation schedules, this might not always be the case. Please call the office before stopping in to make sure someone will be there to help you.

Thrivent Choice Dollars



Do you have products through Thrivent?

Some of their financial

products come with the benefit of Choice Dollars that can be directed to the nonprofit of your choice! These funds need to be designated annually to that nonprofit. Reformation is eligible to receive these choice dollars. This money is used for special projects at the church. Please remember to make your Choice Dollar elections and connect with your Thrivent Representative if you have any questions!

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

Laura Reiter, *President*; Jameson Troutman, *Vice President*; Chase Perry, *Secretary*; Marian Filtz, *Treasurer*, Jamie Anderson, Allison Bocian, Linda Bucher, Evie Fernandez, Eric Hathaway, Jessica Reitano, Pastor Alina Gayeuski and Pastor Eileen Ruppel-Doan.

How to Access the Reformation Church Directory



If it's been awhile since you accessed our church directory, here is a refresher on how to do so - either by using the app or your favorite web browser:

From your smartphone or tablet:

1. Download the app "Instant Church Directory" from the App Store, Google Play or Kindle Fire.
2. Open the app and enter your email address as it is listed in the directory.
3. Check your email for the code.
4. Enter the code into the app.
5. Enjoy access to the online directory.

From your computer:

1. Go to: members.instantchurchdirectory.com.
2. Click "Church Member Login."
3. Find "First Time Signing In?" and click "Create a Login Now."
4. Enter your email address and create a password.
5. Verify your email address by clicking the link in your email account.
6. Sign in with your email and new password.

If you are unable to login or have any questions, please contact Andrea at rlc@relcmedia.org.

Join the Delaware County Children's Chorus!



Does your child love to sing? Let their voice shine with Delaware County Children's Chorus!

This choral program offers a joyful and welcoming space for young singers, with no audition required!

Ensembles:

Choristers (Grades 2-4): Tuesday, 5:15-6:30 pm

Chorale (Grades 5-8): Tuesday, 6:45-8:00 pm

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

Season starts: **September 8, 2026**

Registration: **NOW OPEN!**

Give your child the gift of music and community!
Visit delcochildrenschorus.org for more details.



Upcoming Events

- **Through the Woods Trail 5k/10k/Walk**
September 26, 2026



THROUGH THE WOODS
TRAIL 5K/10K/WALK BEAR CREEK CAMP

Reformation has some complimentary tickets for this event. If you're interested in participating, please contact Pastor Alina.

- **Women's Retreat**
October 2-4, 2026



Join us for a weekend of rest, connection, activities, and the kind of time for yourself that's hard to come by. Visit bearcreekcamp.org/womens-retreat for more information and to register!

Backpack School Supply Collection 2026

It's not too late to support filling backpacks for students in the Chester and Upper Darby Communities. We will be collecting supplies through Sunday, **August 2**. Last year 605 backpacks were filled by 18 faith communities in Delaware County. Here are 3 ways you can support the collection this year.

One way to make a contribution this year is to use the links below to an Amazon Wishlist – School Supplies. Place an order and it will be shipped directly to the crew that will assemble the backpacks.

Link to Wishlist:
tinyurl.com/Interfaith-School-Supplies
or scan here:



You can also make a monetary contribution. Checks can be mailed to:

School Supplies c/o Jody Troyan
1201 Swarthmore Ave.
Folsom, PA 19033

Checks should be made payable to Grace Lutheran Church – Broomall.



Finance Smart

by Christine Corson

The Fruits of the Holy Spirit are Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control. When it comes to our financial wellbeing, it would be very helpful to put into practice the Fruits that God has provided for us. Here are some examples:



Love your current financial state. Love that you are doing well. If your financial state is not good, love that you are aware and are trying to do better.

Bring **joy** to your budget by rewarding yourself. You can do this by replacing an item that you may not necessarily need with an item you will enjoy.

Be at **peace** with your financial situation, whether it be good or bad. If you make peace with it, you will feel calmer in your life.

Have **patience** with debt and savings. Paying off debt takes time. Saving money also takes time. If you are patient, you will meet your goals.

Show yourself **kindness** if you're struggling with your finances. Tell yourself this is just temporary and you will get through it. If you need help, try to find someone you trust who can guide you.

Bring **goodness** into your life by making wise financial choices that will outweigh the bad ones.

Have **faithfulness** when it comes to your job and finances. If you commit to your work faithfully, your paychecks will be consistent and you will stay on top of your bills and save money.

Be **gentle** on yourself if you are not able to follow your budget each week. Life is hard and things happen unexpectedly. You will get back on track!

Have **self-control** when it comes to spending. Follow your budget and save for the things you desire.

UPcoming EVENTS

Rally Day



Rally Day is Sunday, **September 13**. Our regular worship schedule resumes that morning with worship at 8:30 am and 11:00 am.

Please plan to join us as we start another great year of life here at Reformation!

Blessing of the Backpacks

Bring your backpacks to worship on Sunday, **September 13**, for a special blessing as we start another school year and God's blessings in our lives every day!



Save the Date!



August Eco Tip

from *CreationJustice.org*



If you live in a buggy area, skip the chemicals and try natural options to keep the bites away. You can find DIY recipes to make your own mosquito repellent with garlic cloves! Citronella oil is another good natural bug repellent. Remember that bugs are God's creatures, too!

Living Faith Podcast

Miss a sermon? Want a new podcast for your morning commute? Reformation Sunday sermons are now available as a podcast! Follow the Living Faith podcast on Spotify or Apple Podcasts to be notified of all the new episodes!



New Synod Website



Lutherans Together: Loving God, Loving Neighbor

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod has a new website! For all SEPA Synod information visit sepa.org.

Celebrate the End of Summer!



Join us for an end of summer campfire celebration. On Friday, **August 28**, at 7:30 pm, we'll gather for a campfire and s'mores at the firepit! All are welcome.

FROM THE PASTOR

"To God – whose power now at work in us can do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine."
Ephesians 3:20



It's a Gathering year in the ELCA. What does that mean?

In less than one year – June 28 - July 2, 2027 – thousands upon thousands of ELCA teenagers (and young adults) will gather for our denomination's triennial faith formation event - The Gathering. During this week ELCA youth will learn, worship, serve, and be in intentional community with one another. This Gathering will be in Minneapolis, fondly known as "Lutherland," or the epicenter of Lutherans in the US!

The Gathering has been going on since 1988, continually shaping the faith experiences of high schoolers, their adult leaders, and the communities that they visit, serve, and learn from. The ELCA reports that The Gathering is one of our denomination's *top four* most influential ministries. As someone who attended a Gathering as a youth – this event shapes faith, builds leaders, and influences the ministries of the future church.

I am excited to begin "gathering" our group from Reformation for next summer. If you have a student in your life who is entering 8th-12th grade, please be on the lookout for information early this fall. If the youth in your life are all grown - you have a role, too! Please pray for our youth and pay attention to the opportunities they will offer to support their trip this year. For many kids, this is a once in a lifetime experience. I can't wait to accompany them as they "Imagine More" in Minneapolis next summer.

Pastor Eileen (she/her)

SAVE THE DATE!

You're Invited: In God's Image



On Saturday, **October 10** from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm here at Reformation, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod will be hosting the 8th annual In God's Image: Shaping Your Ministry to be Inclusive and Safe for LGBTQIA+ Folk. Rev. Carla Christopher will be the keynote speaker. Hospitality volunteers are needed. Please reach out to one of the pastors if you are interested!

Holiday Offering Envelopes

Did you know that our Holiday Offering envelopes help Reformation live out our generosity every day?



All gifts received through any special holiday envelope or given online and designated as holiday offering is used completely for benevolence.

This fund enables us to match other special offerings and make our gifts go twice as far and allows our Council to respond quickly to other needs in the community. In 2025, over \$25,000 moved through our Holiday Offering fund and out into the community and the world.

Life Center Update



Our next serving date is Thursday, **September 24**. 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.

VBS Fun!

Reformation hosted their annual vacation bible school in early July, entitled, "Just Like Me." This year's VBS was a garden-themed program that celebrates community, inclusion, and justice. As you can see by the happy faces in these photos, a good time was had by all!





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.

Sunday School



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

Weekly Prayer Gatherings

COME JOIN US
TUESDAYS AT 9:00-9:45 AM

Weekly Contemplative Prayer Gatherings

Opening our hearts and minds to God

Wellness Center at Grace Lutheran Church
Sanctuary
2191 West Chester Pike, Broomall, PA 19008
www.gracebroomall.org

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 FOR MORE INFO

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



Autumn Festival

 **GRACE**
Lutheran Church

2191 West Chester Pike, Broomall, PA 19008

Celebrate 5 years of The Wellness Center!

Save the date!

11 OCTOBER | 12 -3 PM | AT THE CHURCH



Interfaith Philadelphia

Art of Interfaith Understanding: Nature and Spirit: Prayerful Looking at American Landscapes



This mini-retreat will take place in the PMA's America250 exhibit, A Nation of Artists. We will focus on landscape paintings that helped create our national identity, fueled our nation's westward expansion, and express a variety of religious and spiritual commitments. Guided meditation on two paintings will be followed by an opportunity for participants to explore the exhibit and select a work of art to contemplate on their own or with a partner. The retreat will conclude with a tour of the works selected, each person sharing their unique experience of prayerful looking.

Sunday, August 16

1:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Philadelphia Museum of Art
2600 Benjamin Franklin Parkway
Philadelphia, PA 19130

Facilitator: Rev. John B. Hougen, PhD,
Coordinator of Interfaith Philadelphia's series: The
Art of Interfaith Understanding and a guide at the
Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Register today!

This program is limited to 15 participants.
interfaithphiladelphia.org/upcoming-programs.

Political Empathy and Religious Pluralism



Can empathy, an ability to stand in the other person's shoes, change how we perceive those who worship and vote differently than we do? Can religious differences be bridged to help us cross political divides?

Hear the groundbreaking research of University of Pennsylvania political scientist Dr. Lia Howard and her students as they offer strategies for improving our political discourse and strengthening our democratic institutions.

This program is part of the *Religious Freedom: Then & Now* initiative.

Wednesday, September 9

5:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Gloria Dei Old Swedes Episcopal Church
916 S. Swanson Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147

Register for this and other events at
interfaithphiladelphia.org/upcoming-programs.



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.



Pastor Eileen leads the Blessing of the Prayer Shawls on June 14.



Former summer intern, Kendyll Ward, returned to Reformation as guest preacher on June 21.



The last night of VBS included a fun celebration on July 9!



Vicar Megan and friends during the Sermon on the Steps on June 14.

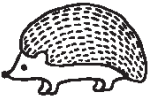


Major progress being made on the Reflection Garden project as shown on July 14.

CHASING WONDER

☆ PHOTO BINGO CHALLENGE ☆

GRAB YOUR PHONE (OR CAMERA!) AND START CHASING GOD'S BEAUTY, JOY, JUSTICE, HOPE, HUMOR, AND INSPIRATION ALL AROUND. MARK OFF SQUARES AS YOU GO, AIMING FOR A "BINGO," OR COMPLETE THE WHOLE BOARD!

 BIRD'S EYE VIEW	 SOMETHING BROKEN	 SOMETHING THAT FLIES	 A PLACE YOU LOVE	 A SELF PORTRAIT
 SOMETHING THAT GROWS	 SOMETHING WHOLE	 SOMETHING TINY	 A SURPRISING SHADOW	 KINDNESS
 SOMETHING YELLOW	 LIGHT	<i>PAY Attention BE Astonished</i>	 SOMETHING OLD	 WATER
 A REFLECTION	 SOMETHING PEACEFUL	<i>JUSTICE ROLLING DOWN</i>	 SOMETHING NEW	 SOMETHING HOPEFUL
<i>SOMETHING ★ THAT ★ MAKES YOU LAUGH</i>	 SOMETHING BLUE	 A PATTERN OR TEXTURE	 NEIGHBORLY LOVE	 RESURRECTION

"Pay attention. Be astonished. Tell about it."
+ MARY OLIVER





102 W. Rose Tree Road • Media, PA 19063

relcmedia.org • 610.891.0600

Sunday Worship: 8:30 am Indoor & Online Worship

10:00 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

August 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.

Saturday, August 15

9:00 am—2:00 pm

Red Cross Blood Drive

Friday, August 28

7:30 pm

Annual Congregation
Campfire