

REFORMATION TIMES

September 2026

Sunday, September 13

Regular Schedule Resumes

8:30 am - Worship

9:45 am - Education Hour

11:00 am - Worship

God's Work, Our Hands Service Project

Join us on God's Work, Our Hands Sunday - September 20 - during the Education Hour! All ages are invited to help us pack hygiene kits for immigrants and refugees to benefit the Global Refuge Welcome Center in Baltimore. Yellow God's Work, Our Hands shirts will be available in the weeks preceding to wear on this day! Contact Pastor Eileen with any questions.



2026-27 PROGRAM YEAR THEME

Wonderfully Made



"I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well." - Psalm 139:14

We invite you to celebrate the gift of being wonderfully made!

We are made in God's image. Each of us bears the divine image of God in who we are made to be in this world. Together we create the beauty of God's expansive and diverse creation.

We are made for mission. God formed us for lives of service. Our calling is to seek out the places of brokenness and share God's creative and redeeming love.

We are made for the sake of the gospel. All that we are and all that we do is through our relationship with God and each other. Our lives declare the wonderful works of God to all the world.

In each of these ways, we are wonderfully made by God and join together in our shared life and ministry at Reformation!

Delco 10 Miler Traffic Notice



Please be aware that the Delco 10 Miler is being held on Sunday, **October 4** and will affect how you get to the early service that morning as Providence Road will be blocked off. The best way to get here is to take

Route 1 to 352 and then come up Rose

Tree Road. Please plan accordingly and allow for extra travel time. There should be no issues leaving the service.

Welcome Deacon Ali!



Deacon Ali Clark, KenCrest's Faith Engagement and Outreach Coordinator, will be our guest preacher at Reformation on **September 27**. Join us in welcoming Deacon Ali and learning more about how we can continue supporting the work of KenCrest!



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

1 Corinthians 12:26

Quinn Hayes received her first communion on August 2.

Jay Reyes and **Brook Snyder**, children of Marianne Koiva and Dennis Snyder, were baptized on August 16.

Lucas and **James Stevenson**, children of Brianne and Tom Stevenson, were baptized on August 30.

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:

- September 13
- September 20:
God's Work, Our Hands project
- September 27

Small Stars (Ages 0-3)



Join us for story time, play, and music for infants and toddlers on Saturday, **September 12**, at 9:30 am in the church nursery.

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.

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 **October 5** and will meet for 7 sessions unless otherwise noted. Sign up online at relcmedia.org/connectiongroups. All groups are limited to 20 registrations unless otherwise noted. Registration opens **September 13** and will close on **September 29**.

Group leaders will contact group members with specific information after registration closes.

CG 1: Lessons from Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Sundays, 9:45 am at Reformation (starts 10/11, 6 weeks)

Pastor Alina

How does one hold onto their convictions while staying in relationship with their neighbor? How does one engage passionately and peacefully? What is the most faithful path to take where hatred and spite seem to reign? The example of Dietrich Bonhoeffer helps to answer these questions as he gives us great insight to the struggle of figuring out what is the next most faithful step in a broken and imperfect system.

CG 2: Three Quatrains and a Couplet

Wednesdays, 4:00 pm at Reformation

Edna Bogert

Read and analyze some favorite sonnets by writers, such as Hopkins, Millay, Barrett-Browning, and, of course, William Shakespeare. Look at rhyme schemes, meter, and metaphor in specific poems. And, using all of the above, write a few of our own!

CG 3: Holy Hikers

Sundays, 4 pm at Various Parks in Delaware and Chester Counties

Jen and Jameson Troutman

Join others to explore various parks in Delaware and Chester Counties. All ages are welcome! Dogs are welcome, too!

CG 4: Imago Dei - Seeing as God Sees

Thursdays, 6:30 pm on Zoom

Pastor Eileen and Pastor Kayla

Imago Dei is Latin for “image of God,” a phrase used in Genesis at creation. Beyond a theological concept, it is a way of seeing, living, and being disciples. It is how we engage our neighbors and communities. Together we will embark on a Bible study on this topic that has been designed by the synod.

CG 5: Seek Peace (T'ai Chi Chih)

Tuesdays, 7:00 pm at Reformation

Pat and John Grantland with Instructor April Leffler

Come and experience Joy Thru Movement! T'ai Chi Chih is composed of 19 separate moves and one pose. Unlike T'ai Chi, this form is not a martial art but rather it is a healing art. It is “user friendly” and is practiced for its many health benefits. It is easy to learn, does not require physical fitness or coordination, and movements can be adapted to be done while seated or for physical limitations. Participants should wear comfortable clothes and bring a bottle of water.

CG 6: Praying with Color

Thursdays, 6:30 pm at Reformation

Patty Boccella

Coloring is a therapeutic way to clear your mind and manage stress and anxiety. Coloring prayer pages helps us to also use this activity as a faith practice! Relax, listen to music, and reinforce your faith with us - all coloring abilities are welcome!

CG 7: English Paper Piecing

Tuesdays, 7:00 pm at Reformation

Marian Baldini

This method of sewing requires no machine! Join this group if you would like some low stress hand sewing and conversation. No experience is required and start up supplies will be provided! Supplies include paper templates, fabric scraps, needle and thread.

CG 8: Earth Prayers

Wednesdays, 7:00 pm at the Clarke-Leighton Residence

Kathie Leighton and Louise Clarke

Guided by the book *Earth Prayers*, we will discuss poems, prayers and invocations from around the world that honor and cherish creation, and learn about a different native plant each week that we can grow as a physical expression of an earth prayer.

Upcoming Youth Events



- **September 13** - Breakfast Club, Confirmation with Parents & Students, Youth Gathering Info Meeting (12:00 pm—lunch provided)
- **September 20** - God's Work, Our Hands project; Youth Group Bonfire (6:00 pm—8:00 pm)
- **September 27** - Confirmation

Breakfast Club Returns!



Attention High School Students: We invite you to join us for Breakfast Club this year! This is an opportunity for those in

grades 9-12 to gather during the education hour – with breakfast! This is a safe space for everyone to learn valuable life skills you will actually use in the future as well as to build lasting friendships, eat some yummy food and have fun. Questions are encouraged! Jen & Jameson Troutman are the leaders of this group but will have guest speakers throughout the year. The group meets on Rally Day, **September 13**, at 9:45 am in the Community Room and then the first Sunday of the month through May. Please register using the QR code below or at relcmedia.org/breakfast-club.



Youth Gathering Info Meeting



Families with students in 8th-12th grade are invited to hear about the upcoming trip to Minneapolis next summer for the ELCA's triennial Youth Gathering! An info session will be held in the ROCK

Room on Sunday, **September 13**, at 12 pm with lunch provided.

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!



Upcoming Events

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



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

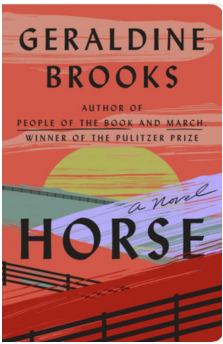
Reformation has some complimentary tickets for this event. If you're interested in participating, please contact Pastor Alina.

- **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!

Library Book Club News



All are invited to join the Reformation Library Book Club via Zoom on **October 20** at 7:00 pm for discussion of *Horse* by acclaimed author Geraldine Brooks. Contact Laura Reiter at longreiter@gmail.com for more details.

About *Horse* from Goodreads.com:

A discarded painting in a junk pile, a skeleton in an attic, and the greatest racehorse in American history: from these strands, a Pulitzer Prize winner braids a sweeping story of spirit, obsession, and injustice across American history.

Kentucky, 1850. An enslaved groom named Jarret and a bay foal forge a bond of understanding that will carry the horse to record-setting victories across the South. When the nation erupts in civil war, an itinerant young artist who has made his name on paintings of the racehorse takes up arms for the Union. On a perilous night, he reunites with the stallion and his groom, very far from the glamor of any racetrack.

New York City, 1954. Martha Jackson, a gallery owner celebrated for taking risks on edgy contemporary painters, becomes obsessed with a nineteenth-century equestrian oil painting of mysterious provenance.

Washington, DC, 2019. Jess, a Smithsonian scientist from Australia, and Theo, a Nigerian-American art historian, find themselves unexpectedly connected through their shared interest in the horse--one studying the stallion's bones for clues to his power and endurance, the other uncovering the lost history of the unsung Black horsemen who were critical to his racing success.

Based on the remarkable true story of the record-breaking thoroughbred Lexington, *Horse* is a novel of art and science, love and obsession, and our unfinished reckoning with racism.

Author Conversation: Geraldine Brooks



Join the Reformation Book Club for a live stream conversation with author Geraldine Brooks on Thursday, **September 19**, at 1:30 pm via livestream at Reformation. This program is part of the Kindling Faith

program at United Lutheran Seminary.

Geraldine Brooks was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in fiction in 2006 for her novel *March*. Her novels *People of the Book*, *Caleb's Crossing*, *The Secret Chord* and *Horse* all were New York Times Bestsellers. Her first novel, *Year of Wonders*, is an international bestseller, translated into more than 25 languages and currently optioned for a limited series by Olivia Coleman's production company. She is also the author of the nonfiction works *Nine Parts of Desire*, *Foreign Correspondence* and *The Idea of Home*. Her latest book, *Memorial Days*, was published in 2025.

Finance Smart

by Christine Corson

On the first Friday after Labor

Day, we celebrate National 401(k)

Day. A 401(k) is a savings plan that

allows employees to contribute a fixed amount of income to a retirement account and to defer taxes until withdrawal. When did this plan start and why

is it called 401(k)? The name "401(k)" comes directly from the U.S. Internal Revenue Code,

specifically Section 401, subsection (k). After Congress passed the Revenue Act of 1978, the

plan was introduced by Ted Benna, a benefits consultant at the Johnson Companies. The plan eventually grew to replace traditional pensions and Benna became known as the "father of the 401(k)".

About 60 million active workers participate in 401(k) plans in the United States. A good way to celebrate this day would be to invest a little extra in your 401(k) if you're able. If you do not participate in a 401(k), you can invest your money in an IRA or bank savings account. Making your money work for you is always **Finance Smart!!!**

Sources: Investopedia.com, Dictionary.com, CNBC.COM, Gallup News



Reformation School Corner



Meet Our Directors

MARION BOAS, School Director

It was a busy summer for Reformation School. During the summer months the following capital improvements were completed by various individuals.

- A chain link barrier installed on the far side parking lot. Integrous Fence Company completed this project.
- Security cameras installed on the perimeters of the school building. Delco Alarms completed this project. We are still working out the tweaks with the intercom system.
- A new light fixture was installed in a back stairwell. Higgins Electric completed this project.
- The community room and the community room kitchen were painted. Matthew Carey completed this project.
- We would also like to acknowledge Mike McKay and his team from McKay Janitorial who handle the waxing of our floors every summer as well as scrubbing the large area rugs and taking care of some deep cleaning.
- Bill Grauer oversaw many of the summer maintenance requests. These included: fixing the wood on the breakfast counter, repairing a section of the floor tile, repairing a part of the dishwasher, rehangng bulletin boards and fixing childproof locks.
- Carson and Nick Titter handled various projects such as: assembling big wheels, assembling wagons and putting together a free little library.
- Nex Reno handled the assembling of a new air hockey table for the Stay and Play program.
- George Haddad, our IT guy, handled installation of a new computer for the School Director's office and helped with the Wi-Fi configurations for the security cameras.
- Andrea Menta and Jen Troutman worked on the updates to the school's website.

Peer Ministry Leadership Retreat

November 13 - 15, Bethany Beach, DE

Reformation will join congregations from around the synod for a high school youth retreat based on relational leadership skills, modeled on the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Contact Pastor Eileen to register or with questions.

September Eco Tip

from John Berberich



ECO MINISTRY
UPDATES

Make the simple change so you do all your energy-heavy chores off peak hours. Do your laundry, dishes, vacuuming, cooking, etc. at night. Doing so will cut your energy bill and help prevent your home from heating up unnecessarily during the day.

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!



Parking Volunteers Needed

Each year we help our friends at Congregation Beth Israel of Media by directing cars on their property for parking during their Holiday worship services. It's very easy, and the arriving worshipers are all very appreciative of our efforts. We will be carpooling from Reformation.

The dates and times are:

- Rosh Hashanah - Saturday, **September 12**, 9:00 am – 10:30 am
- Erev Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre – Sunday, **September 20**, 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm
- Yom Kippur - Monday, **September 21**, 9:00 am – 10:30 am

Please contact Bill Grauer (billgrauer@comcast.net or 610-453-4078) if you would like to help at any of those times.

Reformation Connect



Interested in learning more about Reformation and exploring what it means to be a member of this congregation? Join Pastor Alina on Sunday, **September 27**, at 9:45 to learn more. Please RSVP to the office to attend.



Dear Reformation,

Our Eco Ministry is undertaking an exciting new way to serve our neighbors. We are now a CREW certified Resilience Hub. CREW stands for Communities Responding to Extreme Weather. (You can learn more at climatecrew.org).

Reformation is called to respond faithfully to the reality of climate change, and this is one way that we are doing that in this time. As a resilience center, we provide services to our neighbors in the event of extreme weather and education for preparing for these events through ecological stewardship and community outreach.

We are currently a Level 1 Center - which focuses on engagement. That means we will provide resources and educational programs to help people prepare for extreme weather. To access those resources to help in your own preparations, visit relcmedia.org/resilience.

In the coming months, there will be an educational program about preparedness sponsored by our Eco Team. We are also working closely with the Wellness Center at Grace and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Delaware County to expand our support of the community through these partnerships.

If you would like to be involved in this work, please reach out to me and we will add you to the team!

Thank you for all the ways you help us serve our neighbors!

Pastor Alina



Extreme Humidity, Local Action: Building Our Resiliency Hub

As extreme heatwaves become more frequent, local communities face growing health risks and infrastructure strain from rising temperatures and oppressive humidity. To help our neighbors adapt, **Reformation Lutheran Church is working to establish a local Resiliency Hub.** We are in early stages of a goal to equip our property with emergency cooling, backup power, clean water, and charging stations during power grid failures or extreme weather. Our goal is not only to serve as a safe haven for our immediate neighbors, but also to create a practical blueprint that can be shared with other faith communities across our region. Key findings from the recent World Weather Attribution study, *Fossil Fuels Are Heating America's 250th Birthday*, highlight why this work is so urgent:

- **On climate change as the direct driver:**
" WBGT reached the highest observed values on record across the study region. (Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) is a measure for humid heat extremes especially designed to measure the impact of humid heat during physical activity.
- **On future prevalence and accelerating risk:**
"Research shows that the likelihood of shattering records is proportional to the rate of warming, meaning that the very fast increase in greenhouse gas emissions in recent years has made such events much more likely."
- **On community vulnerability & the need for action plans:**
"Cities like New York, Philadelphia and Chicago have activated heat action plans...However, there remains an urgent need for wider accelerated roll-out of heat action plans in light of increasing vulnerability, driven by the intersecting trends of climate change and population ageing, **paying also special attention to the mental health impacts of extreme heat.**"



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!
Free food, community groups, pet blessings, and more

11 OCTOBER | 12 -3 PM | AT THE CHURCH
activities, tours, meet our partners

For more info:
sisterpaula@gracebroomall.org



Council Highlights

The August Council meeting included the following highlights:

- Updates on the Reflection Garden project
- Approval of funding requests for Alianzas de Phoenixville, SILO, Global Refuge, and Bear Creek Camp

Fall Equinox Labyrinth Walk



A fall Labyrinth walk led by Joyce McNally will be held at the Franciscan Spiritual Center at Neumann College in Aston, PA on Saturday, **September 19**,

from 12 noon to 2:00 pm. To register, contact Patricia Platt at pplatt@osfphila.org or 610.558.6152. There is a registration fee of \$20. For more information, please visit fscaston.org/events-retreats.

Updates from Upper Providence



Upper Providence Township
DELAWARE COUNTY, PA

Painting at the Preserve!

Award winning artist Jim McKay will be guiding people through a painting of the Upper Providence Preserve.

When: **Wednesday, September 9**
5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

Cost: \$55 per person, registration is required.
Scan the QR code below to register.



Interfaith Philadelphia

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.



Our Appalachian Service Project group getting ready to head out on July 12.



The patio is installed in the Reflection Garden.



The Lunch Bunch enjoyed food and fellowship on August 6.

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!

Underwear Collection



national giving alliance
Once again Reformation is working with the National Giving Alliance (NGA) to

collect NEW underwear and socks. NGA is a grassroots charity dedicated to providing NEW toiletries, linens, and clothing (that's TLC) for new tomorrows. We serve 10 agencies in Delaware and Chester Counties. Remember, the needy come in all sizes, shapes, ages, and genders from the newest baby at the pregnancy center to the oldest resident at Fair Acres. (Last year, Reformation provided 604 much needed items.) We will be collecting underwear from **September 13** through **October 4**. For more information, please contact Sally Burkam at 610-566-8737.

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.

Interfaith Action Network

of Southern Delaware County

Join us this fall for a series of training and info sessions to support immigrants through:

Advocacy- a voice for change

Food Delivery- a helping hand

Accompaniment- a caring witness



Scan to register or visit:
tinyurl.com/IANDelco

October 5, 19, 26

6-6:30 PM Light Dinner
6:30-8 PM Training



SWARTHMORE
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

With Guest Speakers
from immigrant-
serving organizations



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

September 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, September 13

Rally Day

Blessing of the Backpacks
Youth Gathering Info Meeting
12 noon

Sunday, September 20

God's Work, Our Hands

Sunday, September 27

Ref Connect