REFORMATION TIMES

October 2026

Celebrate Our Confirmands!

On Sunday, **October 25**, during the 11:00 am worship, eight students will affirm the promises made at their baptisms during the Rite of Confirmation. This year's Confirmands are:

Andrew Benzing
Xavier Berkey
Paul Fernandez
Elisha Kalule
Jameson Lavery
Colin Merino
Brynn Perry
Grace Stroffolino



Together we continue to pray for these young members as we celebrate what God is doing in their lives!

Trunk or Treat!



Celebrate Halloween with Reformation! Sunday, **October 25** during Education Hour will be a Trunk or Treat event for Reformation children. Volunteers are invited to dress up, decorate your trunk, and bring some candy! Visit **tinyurl.com/trunk26** to reserve a space and reach out to Pastor Eileen with any questions.

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.

Blessing of the Animals

You and your pet are invited to a Blessing of the Animals service on **Sunday, October 4**, at 1:00 pm. The service will be held in the pavilion. If your pet is unable to attend the service, please feel free to bring along a photo of your pet.

THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

You are also invited to bring along a donation for the Providence Animal Shelter. These items are "most needed" on their wish list:

- Canned cat & kitten food (nonprescription, please)
- Clumping cat litter
- Newspaper
- Cat Churu Treats
- *Clean* towels
- Dog Beds
- Cat Carriers
- Heating Pads

Visit providenceac.org/support-us/wishlist/ for the complete list. (NOTE: We cannot accept any items that need to be kept cold.)

Council Highlights

The September Council meeting included the following highlights:

- Updates on the Reflection Garden project
- Approval of the 2027-2028 School Facility Use Agreement
- Recommendation of updates to the Endowment Bylaws to be approved at the Congregational Meeting



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

1 Corinthians 12:26

Lucas and **James Stevenson,** were baptized and received their first communion 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:

October 4
October 11
October 18
October 25 (Trunk or Treat)

Small Stars (Ages 0-3)



Join us for story time, play, and music for infants and toddlers on Saturday, **October 3**, 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 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.

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

OHEV SHALOM

Reformation LUTHERAN CHURCH

SWARTHMORE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

With Guest Speakers from immigrant-serving organizations

Reinhard Scholarship

On **October 4,** the Reinhard Scholarship for seminary students will be awarded to Kendyll Ward, a student at United Lutheran Seminary and former Reformation summer intern. She will be with us for worship that day.

The Reinhard Scholarship was established in 2001 in memory of Chester and Helen Reinhard by their daughter, and Reformation member, Helen Beck. This annual scholarship is awarded to seminary students.

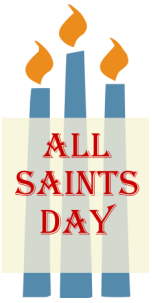
Domestic Abuse Awareness Month



October is Domestic Abuse Awareness Month. At Reformation we partner with and support the work of the Domestic Abuse Project of Delaware County and The World Council of Churches – Thursdays in Black Campaign. To recognize this issue in our society and to work for a better future, we invite you to join us in raising awareness through some of the following actions:

- Pick up a Thursdays in Black pin at Reformation to wear during the month – especially on Thursdays. The pastors will be wearing them each Sunday in October during worship.
- Wear purple or a purple ribbon during the month – the color of Domestic Violence Awareness.
- Join the Domestic Abuse Project at one of the events throughout the county during the month including:
  - Survivor Celebration/Victim Tribute at the Courthouse on **October 15**. (Time TBD).
  - 50th Anniversary Celebration on Thursday, **October 29**, at The Old Mill in Rose Valley, PA from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm.
  - Visit dapdc.org/news-events for more details.
- Share information about DAP with anyone who is in need of their services. The DAP hotline number is (610) 565-4590.

Remembering All the Saints



All Saints Sunday is a time when the church celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who are the body of Christ. So too, it is a day for us to remember all who have died in Christ and whose baptism is complete. Once again, this year at Reformation, we will remember those we love by creating a temporary art installation entitled, "Ribbons of Remembrance."

On Sundays **October 11, 18** and **25**, there will be a station in the lobby where you will be able to make your ribbons. Ribbons made the last several years will be on display again this year. Stop by and use the materials provided to create a remembrance ribbon with the name of the person you would like to have remembered. Your personalized ribbons will be hung in our worship space on All Saints Sunday, **November 1**.

Reformation Sunday



Our congregation has the name "Reformation Lutheran Church" because it was founded on Reformation Sunday, October 29, 1950. This year, on Reformation Sunday, **October 25**, we will celebrate the 76th anniversary of our founding. Part of that celebration will be the recognition of our Heritage Members (those who have been members for 50 years or more) and members of the 1517 Society (those who remember Reformation in their estate planning). Join us for worship as we celebrate being a church in this place for 76 years. We invite you to wear **red** to celebrate!

Reflection Garden Dedication

Join us on Sunday, **November 1**, as we dedicate the Reflection Garden. This dedication will be part of our All Saints celebration as we remember all the faithful who have helped to bring this project into reality. The dedication will be part of the conclusion of the 11:00 am worship.

Upcoming Youth Events

- **October 4** - Breakfast Club, Confirmation, Youth Group (12-1:30 pm)
- **October 11** - Confirmation with Mentors
- **October 18** - Confirmation
- **October 25** - Trunk or Treat

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 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.

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.

ASP Report Back

Our Appalachia Service Project Group will be sharing about their experience on **October 4** during worship.

BEAR CREEK CAMP

Upcoming Events

- **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 to register.
- **Winter Connect**
  January 8-10, 2027
  Cozy cabins, winter adventures, familiar faces, new friends, and a weekend designed to help you grow in your faith. Visit bearcreekcamp.org/camps/winter-camp for more information and to register.

Peer Ministry Leadership Retreat

November 13 - 15,
Bethany Beach, DE
High school youth from across our synod will learn relational skills of loving your neighbor through welcoming, listening, caring, and seeking help when needed. Registration cost is $80. Scholarships are available. See Pastor Eileen or Pat Polilli to register by **October 1**.

Youth Group Arasapha Trip

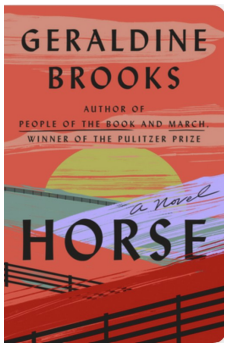
Celebrate spooky season with Reformation Youth Group at Arasapha Farms Haunted Attractions! Cost for all 3 attractions is $50 per person - let Pastor Eileen know if you need financial assistance to attend. Tickets may be purchased individually at: **thebatesmotel.com** for **November 1.** We will carpool from church at 6 pm. Please RSVP here: **tinyurl.com/arasapha**

Congratulations Deacon Bruce!

Former Reformation Deacon Intern, Bruce Pollock, has been called to serve as the Director of the ELCA Mission Builders. Mission Builders is a ministry of our churchwide office that helps bring people with construction skills to churches, schools, and camps across the country that need work completed.

Bruce will be ordained to the ministry of Word and Service on **October 2** at 5:30 pm. The service will be held at Ascension Lutheran Church in Goose Lake, IA. Pray for him as he lives into this new call to serve the church as a deacon!

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.

Finance Smart

by Christine Corson

Attention high school and college students! You work hard to achieve academic greatness and because of that, you're entitled to all kinds of discounts! Here are a few popular discounts for you to check out:

- Amazon offers a 6-month free trial of Amazon Prime Student, discounted membership, and Amazon Music for .99/month.
- Apple offers discounted products when you shop their Education Store.
- Apple Music offers a 1-month free trial and a special student rate that includes access to Apple TV+.
- Spotify offers a 1-month Premium free trial and a discounted monthly price that includes Hulu with ads.
- YouTube Premium offers a 1-month free trial and a discounted plan.
- Target offers a Circle membership at a discounted rate and 20% off a purchase for college students.
- Nike offers a 10% discount to high school and college students (16 years or older) on Nike.com and in the Nike app.
- Adidas offers a special student only discount and free shipping on all online orders.
- Converse offers a 15% discount to students.
- H&M offers a 10% student discount.

Interested in more deals? Just Google *Student Discount List 2026*. Have fun and enjoy your student discounts!

Backpack School Collection Update



Reformation contributed to a total of 607 backpacks being filled to benefit students in Upper Darby and Chester communities. Thank you to everyone who donated!

FROM THE PASTOR

"You shall love the stranger as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" -Lev. 19:34

In early 2026, I joined leaders from Ohev Shalom and Swarthmore Presbyterian in meeting with immigrant-serving organizations to learn how our communities can better support immigrants in Delaware County. After conversation with Centro de Apoyo, Havertown Area Community Action Network (H-CAN), and Movement of Immigrant Leaders in PA (MILPA), we have begun forming an **Interfaith Action Network (IAN)** focused on immigration justice in Southern Delco.

You are invited to join us for three training sessions in October, each on a different topic: **Advocacy**, **Accompaniment**, and **Food Delivery.** Participants will hear from those closest to the immigrant community, learn about action-oriented ways to show up for our neighbors, and will have an opportunity to join an action team to continue this work between our congregations. Register in advance at: **tinyurl.com/IANDelco,** and reach out to Pastor Eileen or one of our IAN Ambassadors, Melissa Lavery and Linda Bucher, for more information.

In Peace,

Pastor Eileen (she/her)

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!

PAR Recycle Works

PAR Recycle Works is hosting a community e-waste recycling event on Saturday, **November 14**, at Strath Haven High School in Wallingford from 9 am to 1 pm. For more information, please visit par-recycleworks.org/upcoming-events.

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.

Endowment Bylaw Updates

At their September meeting, the Congregation Council approved recommended updates to the Endowment Bylaws. They will be voted on at the Congregational Meeting in January. The changes are updates to language and to bring them into alignment with the Constitution and Bylaws of the congregation. They were last updated in 2007. Pursuant to the current Endowment Bylaws, Article IX, Section 1.C, this notice shall serve as the mailed notice to the congregation. To view the proposed changes, visit relcmedia.org/constitution. If you have any questions about the proposed changes, please contact Pastor Alina.

Reformation School Corner

Hannah D'Aquanno,
Stay and Play School Director



We are excited to welcome everyone to a new school year at Stay and Play! As we begin another year together, we are looking forward to all the fun, learning, and special experiences we have planned for our students and families. There is so much to look forward to throughout the year, and we are especially excited about some of the special events coming up. In November, we will have a special visitor, Tyler Severance, a former World Yo-Yo Champion. We are thrilled to have him join us and share his talents with our students. We know this will be a fun and memorable experience for everyone.

We are also excited to announce a new addition to Reformation School, Inc.- the Sharing Library. Located just outside of our entrance doors by the Community Room, the library is available for families to enjoy. Please feel free to stop by, look through the selection of books, and find something special for you and your child(ren) to read together.

We are so excited for everything this new school year has in store. Here's to a wonderful year filled with learning and lots of fun. We look forward to sharing a fantastic school year with all of our students and families!

Rosh Hashanah Parking Crew



Reformation volunteers Keith Bocian, Bill Grauer, John Berberich, and Dick Hughey had a great time helping park cars for the Rosh Hashanah service on Saturday, September 12 at Congregation Beth Israel. Volunteers also helped park cars for the Yom Kippur services on September 20 and 21.

ECO MINISTRY UPDATES

Eco News for October

by John Berberich



October 17 will mark the 35th Anniversary of Reformation's commitment to keeping Rose Tree Road clean. We will meet at the gazebo at 10:00 am for one hour of clean-up. Be part of this historic event!

Eco Meeting

The next Eco Ministry meeting will be held on Monday, **November 2**, at 7:00 pm via zoom. Contact Pastor Alina for the meeting link.

Eco Ministry Nature Night

Join the Eco Ministry on **November 6,** at 7:00 pm in the ROCK Room for an evening of beauty, inspiration, and community. We are gathering to celebrate the incredible gift of our Earth through our own experiences . Three members are already set to take us on a visual journey through their recent nature immersions. From the majestic vistas of our National Parks to a trek up Abercrombie Mountain in the Selkirk Mountains, you will get to experience these spaces through their stories and photographs.

Each presenter will share a brief overview of their journey followed by a showcase of the stunning pictures they captured along the way.

Want to share your own journey?
If you have a recent nature immersion, hiking trip, or outdoor adventure you would like to share, we would love to welcome you to the lineup.

Whether you want to present or simply sit back and enjoy the view, we hope to see you there. Light refreshments will be served.

For questions or to sign up as a presenter, please contact Kathie Leighton at kathieleighton12@gmail.com or (610) 207-5835.

Leadership Institute

Interfaith Philadelphia®



Build Your Interfaith Leadership Skills!

Are you ready to enhance your interfaith leadership skills? Join us for Foundations of Interfaith Leadership LIVE—a unique opportunity to develop and practice the essential skills needed to lead in a diverse, multi-faith world. This interactive workshop is perfect for anyone looking to deepen their interfaith work—whether you're new to interfaith engagement and seeking a solid foundation, or an experienced leader eager to elevate your skills to the next level.

Earn a Certificate

This program grants a Certificate in Interfaith Leadership upon completion. The course combines flexible, self-paced learning (5 hours of independent online coursework) with engaging live sessions (9 hours of virtual video conferences), providing a well-rounded, interactive experience.

Past participants who have benefited from the program include:

- Chaplains & Clergy
- Educators
- Health and Hospital Professionals
- Human Resource Professionals and more!

Register for the Fall 2026 course any time before October 13. Required six LIVE sessions on Wednesdays, **October 14, 21, 28** and **November 4, 11, 18**, 12:00–1:30 PM.

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

Interfaith Philadelphia



Upcoming Everyday Faith Events

Everyday Faith is an interactive workshop series designed to help you build a more generous, practical understanding of the diverse ways people live and practice their faith — or no faith at all — every single day.

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

- **Everyday Faith: Hinduism**
  Thursday, October 22
  4:00 pm – 5:30 pm
  Virtual

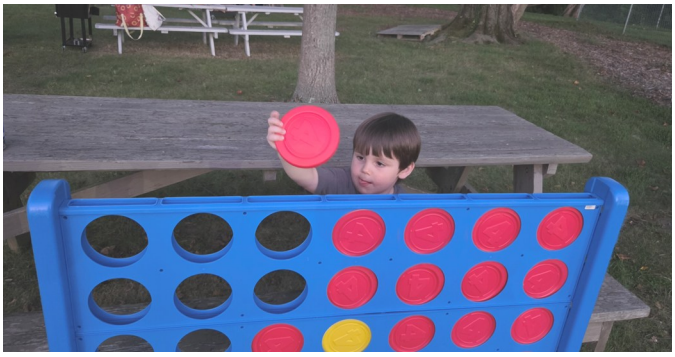
- **Everyday Faith: Indigenous Traditions**
  Wednesday, November 11
  4:00 pm – 5:30 pm
  Virtual

- **Everyday Faith: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**
  Thursday, December 10
  4:00 pm – 5:30 pm
  Virtual

Register for these 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.



Luca enjoyed playing giant Connect 4 at Reformation's campfire night on August 28.



Pastor Eileen and Pastor Alina traveled to Harrisburg to be part of the POWER Interfaith Clergy Press Conference for voting rights. They were joined by many other colleagues from SEPA Synod along with our Bishop.



The Lunch Bunch enjoyed their September gathering at Charlotte's Restaurant. October's lunch will be at Barnaby's on 252 in Aston. Rose Hutchinson will take reservations.

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

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 through **October 4.** For more information, please contact Sally Burkam at 610-566-8737.

Christ In Our Home Booklets

The October/November/December issue of the *Christ in Our Home* devotional booklets are now available for pick up at the church. If you would like to have one mailed to you, please contact the church office.

GRACE
Lutheran Church

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.

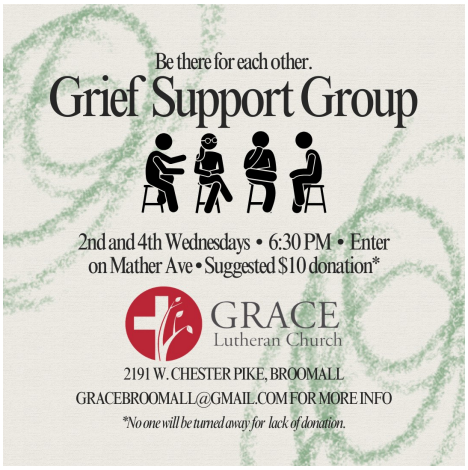
Sunday School



Weekly Prayer Gatherings



Grief Support Group



Autumn Festival



Reformation
LUTHERAN CHURCH

102 W. Rose Tree Road • Media, PA 19063
relcmedia.org • 610.891.0600

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MEDIA, PA 19063
Permit No. 315

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

October 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.

<u>Sunday, October 4</u>
Reinhard Scholarship
Blessing of the Animals at 1 pm

<u>Sunday, October 18</u>
St. Luke Celebration

<u>Sunday, October 25</u>
Reformation Sunday
Trunk or Treat at 9:45 am
Confirmation at 11:00 am