

Advent 2020

Dear Reformation Members and Friends,

This Advent is unlike any we have experienced before. We know this year has been filled with the unexpected, difficult, painful challenges that we could not have ever imagined. And now, as we enter this season of Advent, we find it is all the more filled with our hope of God's coming into this world.

This year we invite you to settle into the Advent season in a new way. We are inviting you to try on the Danish tradition of "Hygge" (pronounced Hoo-ga). This way of life is one that invites you to be cozy in the everyday experiences. It invites slowing down and savoring the good in our world. It invites you to hold onto the simple blessings that surround us even in the midst of difficult times.


In this season of waiting, we invite you to sit with your hopes and to gather (in person with those you live with and virtually with those elsewhere) and celebrate the daily joys. Included in this mailing are special discussion guides you can use for each week of Advent to help you live into this Hygge life.

We also invite you to visit our website to view other resources: relcmedia.org/advent. There you will find Hygge discussion questions for your family, Advent devotional materials, and prayers for you to use at home.

We continue our mission of serving through these weeks with our annual St. Nicholas gift giving. We will include that special celebration in worship on December 6. Please see the list on the back of this letter for more information on gift giving opportunities.

As Christmas approaches, watch for our special Christmas mailing which will have more information about special worship opportunities.

In the hope of Advent,


Pastor Wayne Matthias-Long


Pastor Alina Gayeuski

P.S. Included with this letter is a Thanksgiving Offering envelope. Offerings received through our special holiday offering envelopes go to our Holiday Offering Fund and are used as benevolence throughout the year. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Called by Christ, we **INVITE** all people, **SERVE** our neighbors, and **BUILD** a living faith.

2020 Gift Giving Opportunities

The annual December St. Nicholas celebration continues at Reformation. Visit relcmedia.org/stnick to access agency links, wish lists and additional information. Questions? Please contact Community Action Ministry Team leader Linda Bucher at 610-996-7041 or Deacon Beth at deaconbeth@relcmedia.org.

Caring for Friends (formerly Aid for Friends)

This ministry serves isolated homebound persons, primarily the frail elderly, in the Greater Philadelphia area, with free daily home-cooked meals delivered weekly by volunteer visitors. The goal is to help people enhance their quality of life, maintain their independence, and remain in their own homes for as long as possible.

The Caring for Friends Christmas Amazon wish list includes both personal care items and nonperishable food. Visit relcmedia.org/stnick for links to Caring for Friends and their Amazon wish list.

Chester Eastside, Inc.

A respected force for good in Chester, this agency provides food and clothing ministries, basic tutoring and educational enrichment programs, crisis counseling and community advocacy programs.

Chester Eastside, Inc. hopes to provide gift cards to 300 families this holiday season. Visit relcmedia.org/stnick for the links to Chester Eastside, Inc., and their donation page.

Lutheran Settlement House

Since its founding in 1902, LSH has served vulnerable children, adults and families living in the inner city. Today they serve the newly homeless, abused women and children, and low-income seniors.

Lutheran Settlement House's Amazon wish lists have items for LSH Homeless Shelter, Jane Addams Place, and the Adult Education and Career Development programs. Visit relcmedia.org/stnick for the links to Lutheran Settlement House and Amazon wish lists.

Migrant Ministry of Chester County

This ministry works year-round with people who harvest mushrooms in Kennett Square, providing warm clothing, legal counsel, education and additional support programs. Migrant Ministry of Chester County seeks to provide new full-size blankets for their clients this holiday season.

Migrant Ministry of Chester County is in need to new full-size blankets. Donations of blankets can be brought to the church for Migrant Ministry on Monday, December 14, 9 to 11 am and 5:30 to 7 pm. Visit relcmedia.org/stnick for the link to Migrant Ministry of Chester County.

KenCrest

KenCrest supports community development by exploring possibilities, mobilizing resources, and empowering dreams through work in early childhood development and with individuals with developmental disabilities.

KenCrest is collecting gift cards, games, household items, and toys. Visit relcmedia.org/stnick for the links to KenCrest and their Amazon wish list.

Cradles to Crayons

Cradles to Crayons provides children from birth through age 12 who are living in homeless or low-income situations with the essential items they need to thrive – at home, at school and at play. The items they supply are free of charge by engaging and connecting communities.

Cradles to Crayons is collecting winter outerwear, underwear, and pajamas. Visit relcmedia.org/stnick for the links to Cradles to Crayons and their Amazon wish list.