

REFORMATION TIMES

February 2022

Join Our Worship Team

We are building our worship team schedule for March-May and are always looking for more volunteers.



Please contact the office if you are interested in serving as an acolyte, communion assistant, crucifer, liturgist, reader, sound board operator, or usher. Thank you for being an essential part of worship!

Interfaith Philadelphia Upcoming Events

Thursday 2/17 8:30-10 am (via Zoom) —
"Navigating Difficult Conversations"

Each Tuesday 2/22-3/29 7:00-9:00 pm (via Zoom) - "Exploring Identity"

For more details, go to
www.interfaithphiladelphia.org/events

Reformation Facebook Group



Did you know we have a Facebook group in addition to our church page?

Scan this QR code to join!

Fill the Bowl for the Souper Bowl!

Help us defeat hunger! To celebrate Super Bowl Sunday, you are invited to bring in food items for the Media Food Bank.

Our Souper Bowl of Caring will be a bit different this year. We have found that food pantries often have an overabundance of canned soup, and are desperately in need of other items. In order to meet this need, we will be collecting the following items this year:

- Vegetable oil or olive oil
- Honey
- Dried pinto or kidney beans
- Canned fish (tuna, sardines, salmon)



Please bring your items to Reformation no later than February 13, Super Bowl Sunday. Contact Linda Bucher or one of the pastors with questions. Thank you for supporting our neighbors in need!

Ash Wednesday

Our Lent journey begins on Ash Wednesday – March 2. Worship will be held at 12:00 noon and 7:30 pm. The 7:30 pm service will be livestreamed.





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

1 Corinthians 12:26

Jean Zeien entered eternal life on December 22. A memorial service was held at Reformation on December 31.

Barbara Newby entered eternal life on January 1. A memorial service was held on January 8.

Colin Merino received first communion at Reformation on January 16.

Sunday School Dates

Join us for Sunday School in the new year! All children from birth to grade 6 are invited to join us for Sunday School. Children's Choir is for children age 4 to grade 5. Special Sunday celebrations are for all children and youth at Reformation. Contact Pastor Alina with any questions.

Sunday School will be held on:

February 6
February 20
March 6
March 20
May 1
May 15

Children's Choir will practice for Easter on:

March 27
April 3
April 10

Special Sunday Celebrations on:

March 13 – Bear Creek Camp
April 24 – Eco Sunday

Sock Collection



The "Joy of Sox," an organization founded 11 years ago, collects socks for people living in homelessness.

Socks are the least donated item, and clean, dry socks are

essential for people experiencing homelessness. Socks are needed for men, women, and children, and crew socks in acrylic and polyester blends are preferred.

You can help by bringing your donations of NEW socks of any size or color to Reformation by Sunday, Feb. 13. Please see Linda Bucher with questions.

~~"GOD WON'T
GIVE YOU MORE
THAN YOU CAN
HANDLE."~~

*will help you walk through the
unthinkable. You were never
meant to 'handle' it alone.*

@SUNLIGHTINDECEMBER

REFORMATION TIMES

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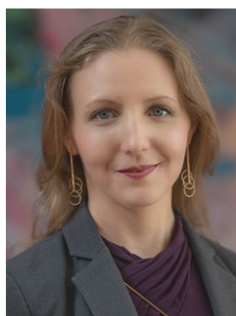
Deadline: Noon the 15th of every month

Materials to: newsletter@relcmedia.org

Congregation Council and Officers

Debbie Conley, *President*; John Grantland, *Vice President*; Pat Burke, *Secretary*; Tom Conroy, *Treasurer*, Jamie Anderson, Rachel Bingeman, Kristen Chorney, Eric Hathaway, Uli Neubert, Bev Norton, Mike Polito, Tyler Troutman, Pastor Alina Gayeuski, and Pastor Wayne Matthias-Long.

Scholar in Residence



Dr. Crystal Hall

Save the date! Join us for our Scholar in Residence program on Saturday, April 23, and Sunday, April 24. Dr. Crystal Hall will be our 2022 Scholar. She will lead a program on Saturday morning, preach at worship, and lead a forum during the education hour. All are welcome! Registration details to follow.

Contact Pastor Alina with any questions.

Sunday Adult Education Forum: *Reading The Book of Revelation Ecologically*

The Book of Revelation is perhaps one of the most misunderstood texts in the Bible. It features prominently in the lectionary readings appointed for the Easter season. While often associated in popular culture with apocalyptic end times and used to brush away Christian concerns for the Earth, Revelation is a book of hope and can be a theological resource for Creation care. This adult education forum will situate Revelation in its historical context in which it was written in the first century CE, and closely reread Revelation 12 in which Earth herself features prominently as a character.

Saturday Workshop: *Rising from "The Fall": Creation Care in Genesis 1-4*

Genesis 1-4 presents three stories—a beautifully expansive liturgy of the creation of the world in seven days, one about the relationships among God, Earth and humanity in the Garden, and another about the first murder that leads to the founding of the first city. In four short chapters the biblical story moves from God's intention for intimate inter-relationship to brokenness and alienation. This workshop will take a classically Lutheran "both/and" approach, exploring both how Creation and humanity are gifted with the grace of relationship from God and how humanity continually falls short in those relationships. In preparation for the celebration of Eco Sunday, these texts will be read with an eye toward how they might serve as theological resources for enlivening Creation care today.

Youth Group Spring Schedule

Mark your calendars for our upcoming Youth Group events in 2022!

March 25-27	Tuscarora Lutheran Youth Retreat
May 1	Scavenger Hunt

Bear Creek Camp Sunday

Join us for Bear Creek Camp Sunday! On Sunday, **March 13**, Bear Creek Camp Staff will be with us at Reformation to share upcoming summer plans and lead a special Sunday School program.



Summer Camp Registration is OPEN!

Registration for Summer Camp at Bear Creek Camp is open! Visit bearcreekcamp.org for more information and to register. Reformation has scholarships available – speak with Pastor Alina.

Shopping Can Benefit Reformation

Planning to shop on Amazon? Remember to use smile.amazon.com and specify Reformation as the charity to benefit from your shopping.



From the Library

"Any book that helps a child to form a habit of ready, to make reading one of his (her) deep and continuing needs, is good for him(her)" – Maya Angelou

Check out Reformation Library's large collection of books for children including:

God Loves You! by Stan Berenstain

The Can Man by Laura E. Williams

The Lorax by Dr. Seuss

The Whirl Story Bible by Kevin Alton

The Story of Ruby Bridges by Robert Coles



Library Book Club 2022 Update

Calling all readers! You are welcome to join the **Reformation Library Book Club**. Our 2022 meetings will continue by Zoom and will take place quarterly. Here is our upcoming lineup:

April 19, 7:00pm: *Another Brooklyn* by Jacqueline Woodson

"A very brief but beautiful story of four young Black girls growing up in Bushwick, Brooklyn in the 70s.. *Another Brooklyn* is a moving tale of dreams lost and found."

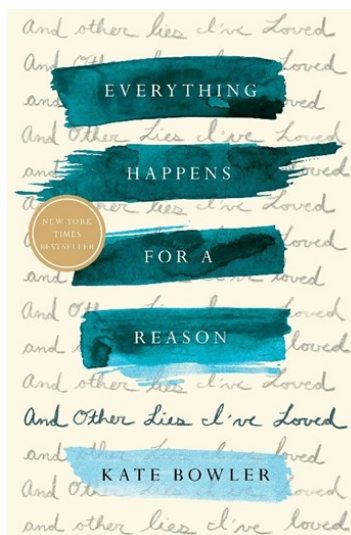
Contact Laura Reiter if you plan to attend:
longreiter@gmail.com

2022 Lent Book

Read along with us this Lent! Our 2022 Lent Book is *Everything Happens for a Reason and Other Lies I've Loved* by Kate Bowler.

Copies are available at the church, as a Kindle download, or from your favorite book seller. Contact the church office if you need assistance obtaining a copy.

Connection Groups for discussion will be offered (watch for Connection Group registration information coming soon)!



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.

WINTER WALK

STEP OUTSIDE THIS WINTER

The Eco Ministry invites you to use this simple outline to walk, reflect, and pray this winter.



SEARCH FOR SNOWFLAKES

Every snowflake has a unique design. They remind us of how God has created each of us with our own unique design. Use this time outside to look for the gifts of winter in creation.

READ SCRIPTURE

Many passages of the Bible discuss the beauty of God's work in creation. Read Psalm 148 before and after your walk. What stands out to you? Talk or write about your thoughts on the passage.



CAPTURE IMAGES

Capture images of your time outside. Use them as a devotional practice. Take photos, draw or write what you see. Look for where you see God at work in creation.



SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE

Invite others on your walk. Share photos from your walk with family and friends (or in the Reformation Facebook group!). Talk about the scripture you read and what stands out to you, where you noticed the passage come to life outside. Share your highlights with each other.



LEARN MORE

Our Eco Ministry has compiled a number of resources to help you learn and act for the care of creation. Join us at relcmedia.org/ecojustice.



REFORMATION ECO MINISTRY TEAM

RELCMEDIA.ORG/ECO-MINISTRY

RELCMEDIA.ORG/ECOJUSTICE

ECO Tip



Feeling sick inside this winter? So is the air inside your home. Follow these simple tips to keep your home and family healthy.

1. Keep your house clean of dust mites, animal dander and other pollutants by cleaning and using fans to vent to the outdoors.
2. Prevent moisture buildup by keeping humidity levels below 50%.
3. Make sure cleaners are clean, avoid toxic sprays and air fresheners.

Have a safe and healthy new year!

Save the Date!

Eco Ministry is planning to have their next Rose Tree Road clean up on **Saturday, March 19**.

Please mark your calendars and join us for some fresh air!





"To those who have hunger, give bread; to those who have bread, give a hunger for justice. Amen." – Latin American Table Blessing

Over 30 years ago, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with this prayer: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat."

The movement that started has since raised over \$170 million for local food assistance organizations across the country.

The Souper Bowl of caring is just one way in which we are able to serve our neighbors right in our own community. According to statistics 1 in 6 people in America face hunger. The people in our area served by the Media Food Bank know the realities of food insecurities. Donations to food banks help to alleviate the hunger that so many face.

You are invited to bring a food donation with you to worship on Sunday, February 13. This year we are collecting honey, canned fish, dried beans, and diapers. (Food banks have an overabundance of soup donations right now and are in need of these other staples for those they serve.) The collected items will be taken to the Media Food Bank for distribution.

Last year we collected 510 items for the food pantry. We invite you to play a part in helping to feed those in need as we hope to meet or beat that number. Together we tackle hunger!

Blessings!

Pastor Alina Gayeusk

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. The scholarship is a one-year scholarship to a four-year college or university awarded to a member(s) of Reformation Lutheran Church. Applicants can be high school seniors or currently attending a college or university. The scholarship is awarded to an applicant(s) who demonstrates a high level of academic, religious, and community-oriented commitment and achievement. The scholarship is awarded annually in July.

Applications for the 2022-2023 academic year may be obtained by downloading from the church website; a printed copy by contacting the church office, or electronically by contacting Ellen Davis Conroy by email at DavisScholarship@relcmedia.org All applications and support materials must be received or postmarked by the May 1, 2022, deadline.



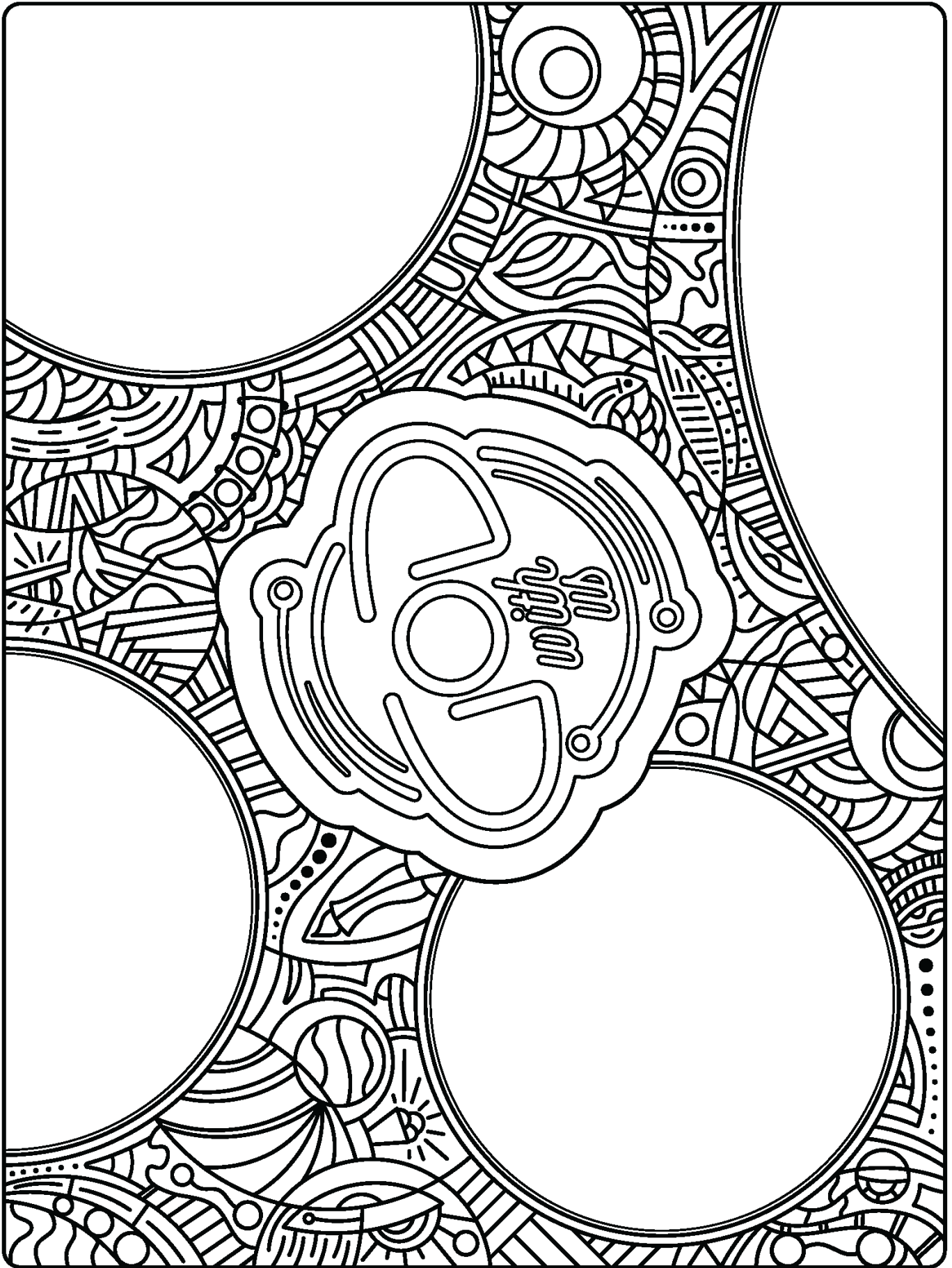
Applicants should be aware that requesting transcripts and letters of recommendation can take extra time and should plan accordingly in order to meet the deadline.

Applications can be left at the church office c/o Mark E. Davis Scholarship Committee to the attention of Ellen Davis Conroy, or emailed to DavisScholarship@relcmedia.org, or mailed and postmarked by May 1, 2022. Applications not received by this deadline will not be considered.

Mailing address:

Mark E. Davis Scholarship Committee
c/o Ellen Davis Conroy
Reformation Lutheran Church
102 West Rose Tree Road
Media, PA 19063

Any questions can be addressed to the following committee members: Sandy Coll, Ellen Davis Conroy, Evan Davis or Rebecca Funk



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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. Wayne A. Matthias-Long
The Rev. Alina S. Gayeuski

Return Service Requested

Label

REFORMATION TIMES

February 2022

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

WELCOME: Called by Christ, we invite and welcome all people. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, age, abilities, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or employment status. We welcome all without regard to religious belief or identity, citizenship, political views, or anything that might divide us. Our unity is in Christ.

Sunday, February 6
Youth Group @ 12 noon

Sunday, February 13
Souper Bowl Collections

Sunday, February 27
Transfiguration Sunday