REFORMATION TIMES

June 2024

Garden Tool Collection



Small garden hand tools will be collected for the month of June for Lutheran Settlement House's urban garden. including: garden shears, trowels, shovels, forks, and

gloves. Return items to the bin in the lobby or contact Pastor Eileen with guestions.

Upcoming **PRIDE** Events

Delco Pride Parade & Pride on State

Saturday, June 1 Parade: 10:30 am - 12:00 pm Pride on State: 3:00 - 9:00 pm State Street, Media, PA 19063

Delco Pride Festival*

Saturday, June 8

1:00 - 6:00 pm

In front of the Upper Darby Township Municipal Building, 100 Garrett Road, Upper Darby, PA 19082 * Contact Pastor Eileen to volunteer at the Reformation table!

Christ In Our Home Booklets



The July/August/September 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.

Spirit Day



On June 2, we will be celebrating our graduates and we invite you to show your school spirit by wearing apparel from any school to worship!

Council Installation June 2

The members of the 2024-2025 Congregation Council will be installed during worship on June 2. Officers and members include the following: Debbie Conley, President; Laura Reiter, Vice President; John Grantland, Secretary; Marian Filtz, Treasurer; Jamie Anderson, Madison Benzing, Kristen Forster, Eric Hathaway, Gabby Parker and Kaylee Troutman.

SAVE THE DATE! Vacation Bible School



This year's VBS will be held from July 8 - 12. Be sure to mark your calendar! For more details, please visit myvbs.org/relcmedia or reach out to Pastor Eileen.

Summer Schedule

Just a friendly reminder that our summer schedule has b Worship times are 8:30 am and 10:00 am.

No Sunday School.



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

1 Corinthians 12:26

Dante Noah Neri, son of David and Monica Neri, was baptized on April 21.

Gemma Ann Dolceamore and Gianna Marie **Dolceamore**, granddaughters of Jeanne Lee and Bob Wilkinson, were baptized on May 12.

Trauma Informed **Care Workshops**



You're invited to register for these events at Reformation. If you have any questions, please contact Marilyn Berberich. To register, go to form.jotform.com/240207426520142.

Pastor Alina's Research Presentations

On Tuesdays, June 18 and 25, Pastor Alina will be leading a two-part presentation at 7:00 pm on Zoom. (This is the same two-part presentation done during the education hour in April.) She will be sharing highlights from her thesis, Beyond the Stained Glass Ceiling: Freeing Women Clergy from the Patriarchy to Thrive in Ministry. Her project explores the challenges that women clergy continue to disproportionately encounter despite more than a half-century of the right for women to be ordained in our own tradition. It includes first-person accounts from women clergy around the country from the largest Protestant traditions in the U.S.

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.

Sound System **Volunteers Needed**



We are in need of some additional volunteers to help with our sound system during worship. No experience necessary! 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!

REFORMATION TIMES Published Monthly by **Reformation Lutheran Church**

Deadline: Noon the 15th of every month Materials to: newsletter@relcmedia.org

Congregation Council and Officers Debbie Conley, President; Laura Reiter, Vice President; John Grantland, Secretary; Marian Filtz, Treasurer, Jamie Anderson, Madison Benzing, Kristen Forster, Eric Hathaway, Gabby Parker, Kaylee Troutman, Pastor Alina Gayeuski and Pastor Eileen Ruppel-Doan.







Sarah Bingeman

Graduating from: Garnet Valley High School





Tyler Bingeman Graduating from: Garnet Valley High School



Natalie D'Italia Graduating from: Garnet Valley High School Headed to: Virginia Tech





Kevin Gamlin Graduating from: Penncrest High School Headed to: LaSalle University





Luke Hathaway

Graduating from: Springfield High School Headed to: Princeton University



Cristina Machado

Graduating from: Strath Haven High School Headed to: University of Minnesota



Elizabeth Reitano

Graduating from: Marple Newtown High School Headed to: University of Pittsburgh





Tyler Troutman Graduating from: Bayard Rustin High School Headed to: Lafayette College





Taizé Prayer at St Raphaela Retreat Center



St. Raphaela Retreat Center in Haverford hosts monthly Taizé prayer gatherings. The practice of contemplative prayer opens us to encounter and to be formed by this love that is poured out. Taizé worship is a contemplative communal prayer service that consists of meditative singing, Scripture reading, and periods of silence in order to reach a contemplative state. Taizé is an international movement, inspired by an ecumenical interspiritual community in France.

Date: 2nd Wednesday of each month

Time: 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM

There is no cost for this program. If you have any questions or would like more information, please call 610-642-5715, email info@straphaelacenter.org or visit straphaelacenter.org/taize-prayer.

Grief and Loss Group



Grace Lutheran Church hosts a Grief and Loss Group every Wednesday evening. Please contact them at 610-356-1824 or gracebroomall@gmail.com for more details.

Celebrate Vicar Paula!

Join us on Sunday, **June 2**, for a celebration as Vicar Paula concludes her time with us as our Deacon Intern. Both services will include a blessing and sending as well as a special reception in the lobby. Everyone is welcome to bring a card and share a message of thanks and blessing!

Life Center Update



The meal program serving the Life Center of Eastern Delaware County in Upper Darby has been operating for over 25 years. They now have the capacity to provide

40 meals each night and expect to soon reach 50 meals! Reformation provides meals for their 32 residents on the 4th Thursday of January, March, May, July and September. In the past year another shelter, Breaking Bread, has been serving meals nearby on Long Lane. They have a capacity of 20 meals per night and have also welcomed our offers of help.

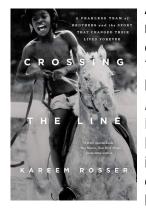
Our next serving dates are **July 25** and **September 26**. Watch for our sign-up sheet and casserole pans in the lobby. For more info about this meal program and to offer your assistance, please contact Dave Smith, yanky68@comcast.net or 610-719-7190.

Welcome Back, Kendyll!



We are thankful to have Kendyll Ward returning for her second year as summer intern here at Reformation.

Library Book Club



All are welcome to join our mid-summer book discussion on **July 9** at 7:00 pm via zoom. We will be reading *Crossing the Line* by Kareem Rosser. You can email Laura Reiter for more information about joining our discussion at longreiter@gmail.com.

From Goodreads.com: Crossing the Line: A Fearless Team of Brothers and the Sport That Changed Their Lives Forever

A memoir of defying the odds from Kareem Rosser, captain of the first all-black squad to win the National Interscholastic Polo championship.

Born and raised in West Philadelphia, Kareem thought he and his siblings would always be stuck in "The Bottom", a community and neighborhood devastated by poverty and violence. Riding their bicycles through Philly's Fairmount Park, Kareem's brothers discover a barn full of horses. Noticing the brothers' fascination with her misfit animals, Lezlie Hiner, founder of The Work to Ride stables, offers them their escape: an after school job in exchange for riding lessons.

What starts as an accidental discovery turns into a love for horseback riding that leads the Rossers to discovering their passion for polo. Pursuing the sport with determination and discipline, Kareem earns his place among the typically exclusive players in college, becoming part of the first all-Black national interscholastic polo championship team—all while struggling to keep his family together.

Explore the Holy Land!

Pastor Alina and Pastor Dan will be leading a trip to the Holy Land for Reformation and Holy Trinity Lutheran Churches, family, and friends. The trip will be **January 7-17, 2025**. More information will follow, but if you are interested in being part of the trip, contact Pastor Alina to be added to the list!

Capital Campaign Update



Thank you for your continued generosity and support of our Capital Campaign and the way that your gifts are helping us transform our property

for the future of our ministry! A special mailing was sent out in May with detailed updates. To see that information, visit relcmedia.org/ lifeabundant.

SAVE THE DATES Bishop Davenport's Upcoming Retirement Events



Please mark your calendars for the upcoming events celebrating the retirement of our Bishop, The Rev. Dr. Patricia A. Davenport.

Take A Piece of Reformation Home!

Part of the summer maintenance in the sanctuary includes removing the last pews in the balcony. We would love to have these pews find their next chapter! If you would like one of the pews, please contact Pastor Alina. There are 8and 10-foot pews available. The pews are free, but you will need to arrange for transportation on your own. First come, first served!

SAVE THE DATE Delaware Valley Interfaith Gospel Choir

The Delaware Valley Interfaith Gospel Choir is planning its 2024 community concert for Saturday, **October 5**. We hope you will sing with us! As in the past, singers will attend four workshops led by Music Director, LaTisha Mays of Second Baptist Church in Media. (Workshops will be held on 9/23, 9/26, 9/30 and 10/3 from 7-9 p.m.). No auditions or church affiliations are necessary. The Choir is free and open to everyone ages 18 and up, who would like to perform in the October concert.

Please mark your calendar for this joyous community event. Questions? Email: Interfaithchoir@firstchurchmedia.org.

ELCA and Social Justice

Are you interested in learning more about what the ELCA does in

the world to advocate for social justice? Are you interested in learning how you can help to advocate? There are two offices of the ELCA working on these issues:

The ELCA Washington Office - "The ELCA Washington Office (D.C.) fulfills the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's witness for social justice on domestic and foreign policy issues facing the nation, and through it, the world." You can learn more about what the ELCA Washington Office does, and sign up for "Advocacy Alerts", so that you will be notified about issues and how you can help at : elca.org/ Our-Work/Publicly-Engaged-Church/Advocacy.

LAMPA (Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in PA) -

LAMPA is the state office working on advocacy issues. You can learn more at lutheranadvocacypa.org. You can sign up for advocacy alerts from LAMPA at lutheranadvocacypa.org/about/advocacy-in-

the-elca.



The May Council meeting included these highlights:

- Election of officers for 2024-2025: President Debbie Conley, Vice President Laura Reiter, Treasurer Marian Filtz, Secretary John Grantland.
- Approval of the Creation Care Covenant from Lutheran's Restoring Creation (see Pastor Alina's message for more details!)
- Approved funding requests for the Domestic Abuse Project, Faith Immanuel Lutheran Church's Summer Camp, SEPA Synod Support for Tanzanian Bishop and Dean travel, annual backpack and supply drive
- Approved building projects including a new secure entryway system at front main entrance and summer maintenance in the sanctuary.

Toll the Bell



Reformation is partnering with Penn Live Arts at the University of Pennsylvania as one of their locations for the Toll the Bell sound installation. This initiative is to bring awareness to the issue of gun violence in Philadelphia. On National Gun Violence Awareness Day - Friday, June 7, at 1:00 pm, nearly 50 faith communities from across the greater Philadelphia area will toll their bells to bring awareness to the victims of gun violence. Reformation will be open from 12:30 to 1:30 with the bells tolling for five minutes at 1:00. You are invited to come sit in the sanctuary for prayer or conversation anytime during this hour. Contact Pastor Alina with any questions and learn more about the project at: pennlivearts.org/blog/toll-the-bell.

Finance Smart

by Christine Corson

Summer is here and the ideal time to talk about **food waste**,

how we handle our food, and how our actions impact not only our household budget, but also world hunger and the environment. Let's start by asking ourselves, "How much food is wasted in my household on a weekly basis?"

According to Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the financial costs of food wastage are substantial and amount to about 1 trillion dollars each year. That number is staggering! All that food waste makes the vulnerable population even hungrier. When we throw away food, we are discarding precious and costly resources that could have fed hungry people. Food waste also has a huge effect on global warming. Rotting food in landfills produces 3 billion tons of greenhouse gases like methane, which directly contributes to climate change. We are locked in a bad cycle involving food waste, climate change and hunger.

Another side to these issues that we should think about is our monetary donations to local or world food assistance programs. For example, you generously give \$20 per week to World Hunger; however, you may be throwing out \$30 worth of food per week. How is that helping our cause? Not to worry! There are simple ways we can help.

Avoid buying excessive food by writing a list, watch what you buy in bulk, buy fruits and veggies that have been picked over, check your fridge temp, store perishable food in air-tight containers, store food in freezer, and give away food you will not use to family, friends or donate to local food banks. Caring for Friends is a perfect organization to save your leftovers for and help feed those in need. If you are interested in the Caring for Friends meal program, instructions, trays and soup containers are available in the church lobby.

We can do better than this! Small changes **can** make a difference so let's all make a conscious effort to start being aware of how much food we are wasting and you will be...*Finance Smart!!!*

*Reference: "How Food Waste Affects World Hunger", wfpusa.org; "Food Wastage Footprint", fao.org; caringforfriends.org.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

thrivent

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!

Join the Prayer Shawl Ministry!

Since the Prayer Shawl Ministry began in 2006, the group has made over 1,450 shawls that have been given to our RELC members, family, friends and visitors and organizations like KenCrest and CHOP. They have been used to celebrate marriages, new babies and



their baptisms, as well as being given in time of illness and death to comfort those who mourn or are in need.

We invite you to join us as we knit the future of this ministry. You can support this work by attending monthly gatherings on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Women's Connection Room or by making shawls on your own time. We welcome those who knit or crochet at any skill level and we are always happy to support and teach skills together.

If you are interested in joining the group, feel free to contact Kathy Ewens at 610-952-0437 or kewens607@gmail.com.

More information can also be found at relcmedia.org/prayer-shawl-ministry.

Visit from Bishop Mbilu and Dean Kanju from Tanzania

On **May 1**, Reformation hosted a celebration for the Bishop and Dean from our partner synod in Tanzania. Reformation is a partner congregation with the Pangani Lutheran Parish and provides continued annual support and is an important relationship in our ministry. The Bishop and Dean were in the US to attend the upcoming SEPA Synod Assembly and bishop election. We had a nice turnout and a good time was had by all!







Let the whole creation cry, "Glory to the Lord on high!" Heav'n and earth awake and sing, "Praise to our almighty king!" Praise God, angel hosts above, ever bright and fair in love; sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God rejoice. (ELW, Hymn 876)



Dear Reformation,

Reformation is part of the Creation Care Ministry Network of Lutherans Restoring Creation – a network of ELCA congregations across the country engaged in the intentional work of creation care and eco ministry.

Part of LRC is to encourage all ELCA congregations to pass a covenant committing to the ongoing care of creation in these areas and ways:

- Worship including celebration of creation and gratitude to God for all that has been made.
- Education learning about the biblical and theological connections to our call to care for creation.
- Building and Grounds intentional use and stewardship of resources in maintaining property.
- Discipleship at Home and Work equipping members and friends of the congregation to engage in the care for creation in their daily life.
- Public ministry engaging in public witness and advocacy for environmental issues.

Our congregational commitment in these areas is already vibrant and evident in many ways! With the guidance of our Eco Ministry, Reformation continues to be a model for the way we are called to care for creation.

At the May meeting, Council voted unanimously to affirm this work and sign this covenant. (The full text of the covenant is available on the counter in the lobby.) We invite you to continue celebrating the great gift of God's creation and working with us to care for the world for generations to come!

For more information about Lutheran's Restoring Creation, visit lutheransrestoringcreation.org.

Pastor Alina Gayeuski



Holiday Offering Envelopes

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

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	My contribution o	of \$	is enclosed.	
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through any special holiday envelope or given online and designated as Holiday Offering are 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 2023, over \$27,000 moved through our Holiday Offering fund and out into the community and the world.

Please remember to use these special envelopes and help our reach go further! Thank you for the ways you continue to live out the generosity of God's love in this world!



2024 Dare to Understand **Awards Ceremony**

Join us on June 6 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral (or via livestream on YouTube) to celebrate, as we gather the youth, leaders, and community partners who have been the heart and soul of our work. At this 20th Anniversary celebration, we are proud to present our 2024 Dare to Understand® Awards to four individuals who have led Interfaith Philadelphia and committed vital and invaluable efforts and passion to this work. We will also celebrate the nearly 1000 alumni of our Walking the Walk Youth Initiative, along with the group leaders, parents, mentors, congregations, and service partners, who have been central to living our vision, and whose dreams will shape the future of interfaith work. For more information, please contact Sara Zebovitz at ssz@interfaithphiladelphia.org or 215-222-1012 x5 or visit interfaithphiladelphia.org/2024dtu-awards.

June Eco Tip



With Summer coming, here are some helpful tips for running your air conditioning as economically as possible:

- Don't confuse your thermostat. Keep all heat producing appliances away.
- Shade your A/C unit.
- Keep your filters clean.
- Save heat producing activities • - like baking and cooking - until evening.
- Don't fidget with your thermostat. Most adults are comfortable between 68 to 74 degrees.



Kindling Faith Summer Events

Theological Learning with Adults featuring Dr. Allison deForest, Professor of New Testament: July 14 – 19. Many of us are very used to encountering texts from Paul's 1st and 2nd Letters to the church in Corinth in the bits offered in the Lectionary on Sunday mornings. Some of these bits are favorites - some of Paul's greatest hits - others seem deeply troubling and contradictory. During this week, we will examine the biblical books 1 & 2 Corinthians as a whole, taking into account the fact that they are part of a larger set of communications between Paul and the church that he founded in Corinth. The hope is that this holistic approach will deepen our understanding of what each individual passage says and means.

To register for this and other events, please visit unitedlutheranseminary.edu/calendar.

ふ や ア BEAR CREEK CAMP

Summer Camp Registration NOW OPEN!



BEAR CREEK CAMP · SUMMER 2024 Sign up for a week of camp this summer at Bear Creek! Registration is now open for Summer 2024. Register at bearcreekcamp.org.

50th Summer Celebration!

Return to Bear Creek Camp on Friday, July 5, for a day of celebration including worship, cookout lunch, camp activities, and a chance to connect with generations of the BCC community. Open House begins at 10:00am, lunch is at 12 noon and worship is at 3:00 pm. Those who want to extend the anniversary celebration are encouraged to register for Family Camp! For more information and to register, go to bearcreekcamp.org.



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.*



Brandt Norton delivers Lenten Care Kits to Phoenix Recovery House on April 27.



Ready to welcome guests to our mini Masters event on April 27.



Vicar Paula having some fun at our mini Masters event on April 27.



Kathy Schmick, Ellen Conroy, Dick Hughey and Tom Conroy at the reception for Bishop Mbilu and Dean Kanju on May 1,



Pastor Eileen leads the Thanksgiving for Baptism on May 5.



Some adorable members of our Kindergarten and First Grade Education Hour crew.



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

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REFORMATION TIMES June 2024

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.

Sunday, June 2

Council Installation Graduate Recognition/ School Spirit Day Farewell to Vicar Paula

Sunday, June 9

Bear Creek Camper Blessing

Sunday, June 16

Father's Day

Sunday, June 23

Davis Scholarship Presentation