

REFORMATION TIMES

July 2024

Car Wash Success!



Thank you to all who stopped by on June 9 to get their car washed and contribute to our Youth Gathering funds. \$500 was raised! Our teens thank you for your support.

Vacation Bible School



This year's VBS will be held from **July 8 - 12**. Children age 3 through completed Grade 5 are invited to join us! For more details, please visit myvbs.org/relcmedia or reach out to Pastor Eileen.

Volunteer at VBS

Do you want to help our children and youth have a great week at Vacation Bible School? Contact Pastor Eileen to volunteer! Volunteers are needed to lead class groups and activities during the week. Child care is provided for children who are too young to participate in VBS if parents are volunteering at VBS. VBS is **July 8 - 12**, 5:30 - 7:30 pm.

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.



Prayer
Shawl
Ministry

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.

Summer Office Hours



This is just a reminder that while our normal office hours are Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm (and closed on Fridays), with our small staff and summer vacation schedules, this might not always be the case. Please call the office before stopping in to make sure someone will be there to help you.



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

1 Corinthians 12:26

Wharton Jesse Hirst entered eternal life on **May 14**. A funeral service was held on **May 20** at Reformation.

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 were installed as Council members and officers during worship on **June 2**.

Brianna Noelle Marcus received her first communion on **June 2**.

Rachel Bingeman, Sarah Bingeman, Tyler Bingeman, Arianna D'Italia, Kevin Gamlin, Megan Gress, Elizabeth Reitano and Tyler Troutman were the 2024-2025 recipients of the Mark E. Davis Scholarship. The scholarship was presented at worship on **June 23**.

Join the Lunch Bunch!



The Lunch Bunch ladies enjoyed a meal at the Springfield country club on June 6. The July lunch will be held on July 11 at 11:30am at the Rooster Diner on 352 just south of Route 1. RSVP to Sue or Edna if you would like to attend.

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.

Backpack School Supply Collection 2024

Collection Ends August 11



It's time for the Backpack School Supply Collection! We hope to once again be able to supply stuffed backpacks to students in the Chester and Upper Darby Communities. Last year, 397 backpacks were filled by 17 faith communities in Delaware County. Here are 3 ways you can support the collection this year:

One way to make a contribution is to use the links below to an Amazon Wishlist – School Supplies. Place an order and it will be shipped directly to the crew that will assemble the backpacks.

Link to Wishlist:

<https://rb.gy/c4fgnq>

or scan here:



You can also make a monetary contribution. Checks can be mailed to:

School Supplies c/o Jody Troyan
1201 Swarthmore Ave.
Folsom, PA 19033

Checks should be made payable to Grace Lutheran Church – Broomall.

Dave Ehret is again serving as Treasurer of this effort.

As in past years, you can do the shopping and drop off the supplies at Reformation. The suggested list of supplies are as follows:

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Plastic Pencil Box
- Pocket Tissue Packs
- Composition Books
- Crayons (24 count box)
- Washable Markers (8 count box)
- Glue (8-ounce bottle)
- Glue Sticks
- Large Pink Erasers
- No. 2 Pencils
- Pocket Folders
- Safety Scissors
- Pencil Sharpener
- Ruler

MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL

- Plastic Pencil Box
- Pocket Folders
- Scotch Tape
- Highlighters
- No. 2 Pencils
- Mechanical Pencils
- Colored Pencils
- Pencil Sharpener
- 3 x 5 Index Cards (ruled & unruled)
- Pens
- Ruler
- 3 Ring Binders
- Binder Dividers
- Loose Leaf Paper
- Post It Notes
- 1 Subject Notebooks
- 3 or 5 Subject Spiral Notebooks

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.



Summer Camp Registration NOW OPEN!



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 10:00 am, 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.

Three Ideas for a Faith Filled Summer!

by Traci Smith

As Summer draws near, we have the opportunity to nurture our faith at home with our children in new ways. Here are three easy ideas for you to use as incorporate faith moments into your Summer routine:



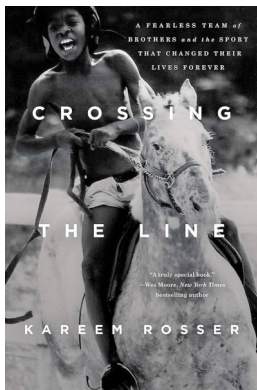
Rainbow Nature Walk — This is so simple, and it invites mindfulness and gratitude into the hearts and minds of us all. Go on a walk through a natural area near you. Invite your children to look for something in nature that's all the colors of the rainbow. As you find the items, take a photo. When you're done, print out your "nature rainbow" and hang it somewhere in your house. If you do this each time you take a rainbow nature walk, you have a house full of rainbow memories.

Spreading Summer Sunshine — This activity allows you to think of others during the summer. Who needs extra love and sunshine this summer? How can you share love to them? Perhaps it's baking a treat or a meal or making a card? Perhaps it's returning the shopping cart to where it belongs or lending a helping hand. Make "summer sunshine" a theme for your household this summer.

Summer Family Reading Challenge — Summer is a great time to read through a special book together. I recommend *Sing, Wrestle, Spin* by Jennifer Grant or the *Celebrate Wonder* Storybook Bible. For older kids, I recommend *Holy Troublemakers and Unconventional Saints* by Daneen Akers. You could also do a summer fiction challenge by reading one (or all!) of the *Chronicles of Narnia* book. Start with the *Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*.

As you share these ideas at home and create meaningful memories at home, don't forget to report back to your friends at church what you're doing! Together we can share ideas, encourage one another, and learn from each other!

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.

SAVE THE DATES

Bishop Davenport’s Upcoming Retirement Events

SAVE THE DATES! AUGUST 9-11



Worship
FRIDAY, AUG. 9, 5 P.M.
UNITED LUTHERAN SEMINARY
CHAPEL
7301 GERMANTOWN AVENUE, PHILADELPHIA, PA

**Fellowship and Fun
Bar-B-Que**
SATURDAY, AUG. 10, 12-3 P.M.
ULS QUAD

Retirement Dinner Gala (Ticketed Event)
SUNDAY, AUG. 11, 4-8 P.M.
HILTON HOTEL,
4200 CITY LINE AVE., PHILADELPHIA, PA

Celebrating The Retirement of Our Bishop
THE REV. DR. PATRICIA A. DAVENPORT

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

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!

Life Center Update



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.

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 pm). 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



ELCA

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.



Council Highlights

The June Council meeting included these highlights:

- Updates regarding the Capital Campaign projects and other building maintenance projects ongoing.
- Appointments to the Reformation School Board of Sara Caldwell, Scott Kamin, Pat Grantland, and Joe Sena.
- Approval of Eagle Scout projects.
- Approval of funding requests in support of the Reformation DEI Team from Endowment New Programs, Vacation Bible School Offering match from Holiday Offering in support of Lutherans Restoring Creation, the Summer Camp at Chester Eastside from Holiday Offering, and the Souls Shot Portrait Project with the Unitarian Universalist Church of Delaware County from Holiday Offering.

Note: There is no July Council Meeting.

July Eco Tip

Here are some year-round tips to help use less gas while you're out driving:



- Keep at least half a tank of fuel. You never know if you will hit bad traffic or bad weather.
- Check online for the best gas prices.
- Cut down on or plan your errands.
- Obey speed limits.
- Drive evenly - avoid hard acceleration and braking.
- Aerodynamics - remove roof racks and bike racks when not in use.
- Buy gas from top tier gas companies.
- Skip premium gas; use only the grade of gas indicated on the fuel filler door.
- Check tire pressure.
- Only use the A/C when necessary - if mild weather, skip it!

Reformation Has PRIDE!

Pastor Eileen and friends had a great time at the Delco Pride Festival in Upper Darby on June 8. Thank you to everyone who volunteered!



Finance Smart

by Christine Corson



Lately it seems like email and text scams are increasing. And now with AI (*Artificial Intelligence*) added to their arsenal, scammers are making it very difficult for us to distinguish if something is real or fake. I would like to remind you to be cautious when you get emails or texts from someone who acts as if they know you.

For example, you get an email from Pastor Eileen saying she needs a favor from you that involves buying her gift cards for a particular cause. Reformation's staff will never make a request such as this. As soon as you get the message, stop and think first. Do not respond to the message! Ask yourself, "Does this message sound like Pastor Eileen?" If you're unsure if it's legit or not, in this instance you would call the Reformation office to validate the request. It's also best to delete the email or text so it doesn't get passed along to someone else who could fall victim.

Another popular scam involves a security warning that pops up on your computer instructing you not to shut down or restart your computer. This is a fake alert pretending to be from Microsoft or Apple to trick you into thinking your computer crashed or you have a virus. It's actually a scare tactic to get you to call the support numbers they provide. Do not call or respond – close the browser if possible! When in doubt, contact a reputable source for advice such as Microsoft or Apple support.

There are many different scams. I suggest you do some research, especially on the new AI generated ones. And when in doubt, always double check your email or text sources and you will be... **Finance Smart!!!**



"Love your neighbor as yourself."
Matthew 22:39

This month, myself and 2 other adults will take 6 youth to the ELCA Youth Gathering. Part of this trip is showing young people what it means to accompany and serve people different from themselves. New Orleans is a city that has experienced many ups and downs. Some of the latter include the catastrophic impact that storms such as Hurricane Katrina have had on the city and its residents. As part of the Youth Gathering's in-kind offering to this city for hosting our young people, we are helping put together Hurricane Relief Kits. Each region of the ELCA is responsible for providing a particular item, and we in SEPA are tasked with purchasing small first aid kits. This is where you come in! It's easy to contribute - either give \$15 to Reformation by check, cash, or Venmo and indicate "hurricane relief kits" on your donation OR purchase the kits off the Gathering's Amazon wishlist to ship directly to NOLA, using the instructions below. Thank you for helping us serve our neighbors and foster caring youth!

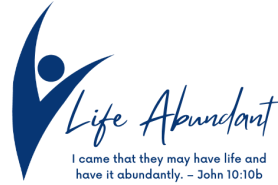
Pastor Eileen (she/her)

1. Scan code with phone
2. Add First Aid Kit to Amazon cart
3. In checkout, change shipping address to "Christ the King - Accompaniment ELCA Youth Gathering "
4. Checkout!



Thanks for helping with hurricane relief!

Capital Campaign Update



With thanks to the work of AMDG, at the printing of this newsletter, the roof work is almost complete! We look forward to many "dry" years under this new roof and all of the life of our congregation that it protects.

The project also included the repointing of our belltower and chimney, further protecting the integrity of our building for future generations.

We are also in the process of receiving bids for the pavilion base. If you stop by the field behind the gazebo, you will see orange flags marking the plot. We hope to have the base poured and the pavilion installed by early fall.

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 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!

From Pastor Alina: Holy Land Trip Update

As you know, the situation in Gaza continues to unfold with unimaginable violence. While our trip would not be in the same area of Israel and Palestine, many borders are still closed and other travel could be inhibited due to the war. As such, we have reached out to our trip coordinator with Good Shepherd Travel and have moved our trip to **January 5-15, 2026**.

In the meantime, we invite you to do some of the following as we pray for peace and support our siblings in the Holy Land:

- Follow the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation, Beit Jala on social media. (Reformation, Media supports Reformation, Beit Jala through our Endowment Outreach fund annually and we hope that Pastor Ashraf Tannous might be able to visit us in 2025.)
- Sign up for updates through Sumud - a ministry of the ELCA that will provide you with advocacy alerts and information on the work of justice in Palestine and Israel.

If you have any questions, please reach out! We pray that we will be able to travel to the Holy Land safely and soon.

Take A Piece of Reformation Home!



FREE Pews

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 two 10-foot pews available as of the printing of this newsletter. The pews are free, but you will need to arrange for transportation on your own. First come, first served!



United Lutheran Seminary
UNIFYING, LEARNING, SERVING

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.

ELCA Social Statement: What Does it Mean to be Lutheran in a Crucial Election Year?

Six sessions from June - October 2024

(via Zoom from 7 - 8:30 pm). As our faith informs our day-to-day lives, Lutherans recognize that "faith is active in love [and] love calls for justice in relationships and structures of society" (ELCA, Social Statement on Church in Society, 1991). We also know the church is called to be a community that prays, deliberates, and acts together when it comes to complex social issues. In this election year, how might our Lutheran faith shape our thinking, acting, and voting on major issues? Join us to learn and ponder timely social teachings of the ELCA and to learn tips for leading discussions in your own community. Up next:

- **August 27: Corporate Social Responsibility** - Rev. Kaari Reiersen, Director of Corporate Social Responsibility for the ELCA.
- **September 10: Abortion** - Dr. Caryn Riswold, Professor of Religion/McCoy Family Distinguished Chair in Lutheran Heritage and Mission at Wartburg College.

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



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.*



Phyllis Brady and Edna Bogert dropping off personal care items collected by Reformation's "Lunch Bunch" to Michelle Brown, Executive Director of the Domestic Abuse Project of Delaware County on May 2.



48 Reformation members enjoyed Lutheran night at the Phillies on May 31.



Our Breakfast Club High School Sunday School class held their final gathering of the year on May 12.



Pastor Alina, Jen Troutman and Jameson Troutman showing some Susquehanna spirit on School Spirit Day, June 2.



Eagle Scout Aidan Reilly, along with members and friends of Troop 430 with the fire pit and benches they built for Reformation on May 26.



Wishing Vicar Paula "Farewell and Godspeed" during her last worship with us as Deacon Intern on June 2.



COXESBURY
KIDS

Campfire

Psalm 56:3

A SUMMER CAMP

ADVENTURE WITH GOD



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

Label

REFORMATION TIMES

July 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.

Thursday, July 4

4th of July Holiday
Church office closed

Sunday, July 7

VBS Leader Installation

July 8 - 12

5:30 - 7:30 pm
Vacation Bible School