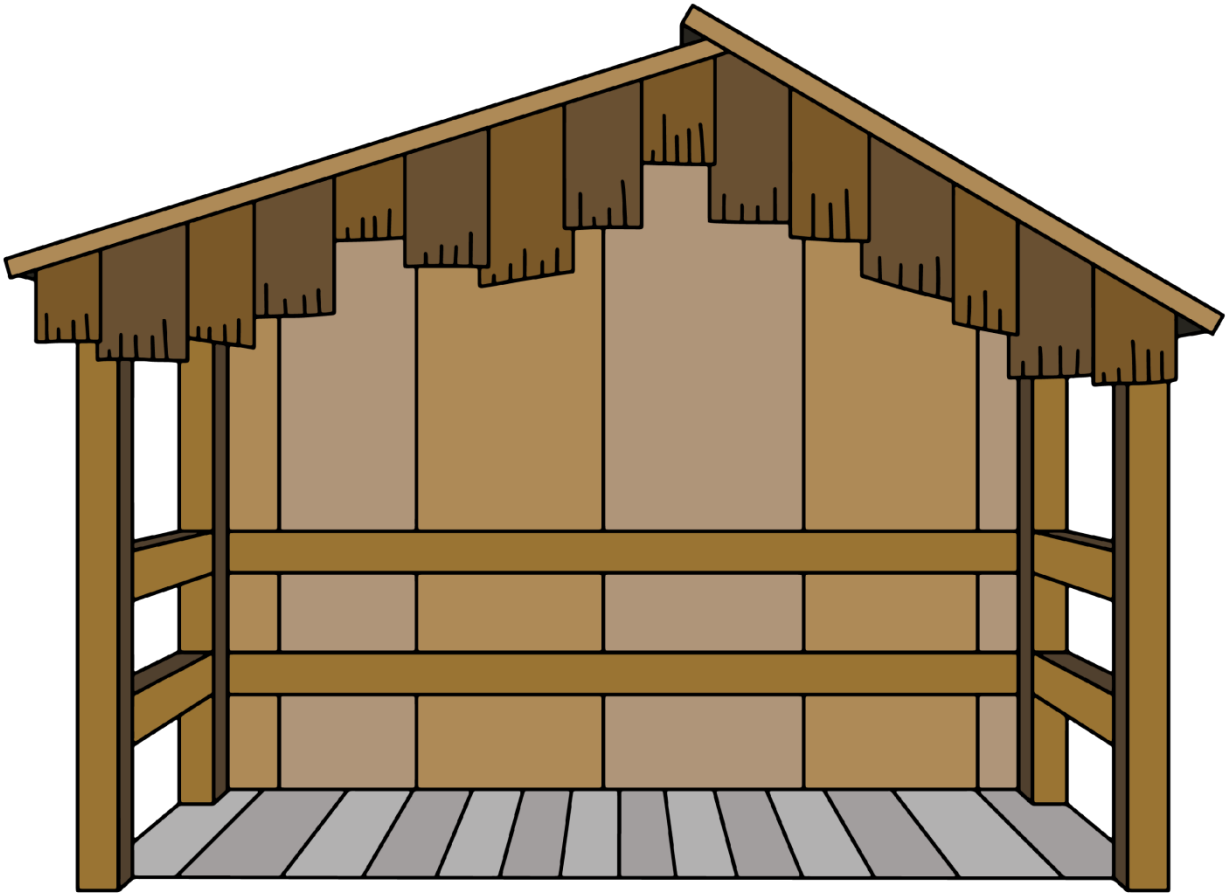

Christmas Eve 2025 4:00 pm

Reformation Lutheran Church

102 W. Rose Tree Rd, Media, PA 19063 • 610-891-0600 • www.relcmedia.org

Welcome to Reformation!

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

Welcome! First time visitors are invited to stop by our welcome center in the lobby.
All are invited to **check in** with us using the friendship pads in your row or online at relcmedia.org/hello.

Land Acknowledgement – Reformation is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Lenapehoking (Lenni-Lenape) people, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We recognize and honor all of our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

Children in worship are a blessing. We invite our smallest members to sit toward the front where it is easiest for them to see and hear worship and to join the pastors for the Sermon on the Steps. A Pray Ground space is available during worship at the back of the sanctuary. Worship Bags can be filled at the Pray Ground and taken to your seat. A professionally staffed nursery is available for children from birth to age 4. Worship is livestreamed to the nursery as well as to the lobby. A family restroom is located on the lower level.

All are welcome at the table where we celebrate the presence of Christ. As ushers direct you forward:

1. Receive the bread (for gluten free, ask a pastor during distribution)
2. Dip the bread in one of the chalices
    - White grape juice is on the bread tray held by the pastor
    - Red wine is held by the Communion assistant to the side of the pastor

Children and those who do not commune are invited to come forward for a blessing. Please let an usher know if you need Communion brought to your seat.

Our Prayer List can be found at relcmedia.org/virtualchurch. To make your prayer request known, please call or email the church office at 610-891-0600, rlc@relcmedia.org.

Williams Personal PA Receivers are available for use by the hearing impaired.

Large print bulletins are available from an usher.

Gathering

*Please stand as you are able **Congregational responses are indicated in bold**

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

This is the day Christ the Lord is born!
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Carol O Come, All Ye Faithful Hymn 283

Verse 1 **O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!**
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the king of angels:

Chorus **O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,**
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Verse 2 **The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,**
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father, now in flesh appearing! Chorus

Verse 3 **Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,**
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, in the highest: Chorus

Verse 4 **Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;**
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: Chorus

Greeting*

The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, Word made flesh, born of Mary,
be with you all. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day*

Let us pray. O Lord our God, with Mary and Joseph, angels and shepherds, and the animals in the stable, we gather around your Son, born for us. Bless us by being with us and show us how to help others through Christ's love. May we praise you above and live in peace down on earth. **Amen.**

Word

Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

A reading from Isaiah.

The people who walked in the dark have seen a great light; those who lived in a very dark place—light has shined on them. You have made the nations grow, you have given them joy; the people will praise you like during harvest time; it will be like people celebrating after winning a battle. You will take away their heavy load, like you did when you defeated Midian. You will destroy every weapon that hurt, every boot that marched, and every uniform worn. For a child has been born for us, you've given us a son; he will have power to lead the people, and he is named: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His power will keep growing, and there will be peace for the kingdom. He will make it strong, by ruling with goodness and justice. God's love will do this forever.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Christmas Story

[Children are invited up front to help tell the Christmas Story.]

Hymn of the Day* Hark the Herald Angels Sing Hymn 270

Verse 1 **Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;**
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Chorus **Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

Verse 2 **Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,**
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! Chorus

Verse 3 **Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!**
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth. Chorus

Prayers of Intercession*

With hope, we pray.

[After each prayer petition:]

God of love,
Hear our prayer.

[The prayers conclude:]

Listen to all our prayers, through Jesus.
Amen.

Peace*

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

[The people greet one another with “Peace be with you” and a sign of Christ’s peace.]

Meal

Offering

[Use pew envelopes or scan code to give online]

Musical Offering

Elizabeth Hazlett, Vocalist

Setting the Table*

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly — Hymn 276

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Offering Prayer*

Let us pray. Good and loving God,
We are joyful for the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to your rich grace. Bless us to bless each other, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving*

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your word brought light into the world. In the fullness of time, . . .

. . .With thanksgiving we take this bread and this cup and proclaim the mystery of faith.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

With the confidence of children of God, let us pray:
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Communion

God fills the hungry with good things. Come with joy to the table.
Thanks be to God!

All are welcome at the table where we celebrate the presence of Christ. As ushers direct you forward:

1. Receive the bread (for gluten free, ask a pastor during distribution)
2. Dip the bread in one of the chalices
    - White grape juice is on the bread tray held by the pastor
    - Red wine is held by the Communion assistant to the side of the pastor

Children and those who do not commune are invited to come forward for a blessing. Please let an usher know if you need Communion brought to your seat.

[The assembly sings the following during communion:]

Away in a Manger — Hymn 277

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

O Little Town of Bethlehem Hymn 279

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

Table Blessing*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ give you strength and keeps you in grace. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion*

Let us pray. Great and saving God, you have gathered your people near and far around bread and wine, the body and blood of Jesus. As we, like the shepherds, return on our way, may we share all we have heard and seen, praising you in word and action for the gift of Jesus, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Candle Lighting*

[The Pastor gives light to the acolytes who in turn give light to the first worshiper in each row, who will pass it on to others. **The lighted candle is never tilted, but always held upright when giving light to another.]**

Reading

John 1:1-5, 14

In the beginning, before there was anything, there was the Word. The Word was with God. The Word was God. The Word was there in the very beginning. The Word has always been here. And there. And everywhere. The Word is in everything God creates. The Word brings light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has never put it out. The Word became a human being and lived here with us. We saw the glory of God through him. From him all the kindness and truth of God came down to us.

Carol

Silent Night

Hymn 281

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

Sending

Blessing*

God most high, God with us, God for us, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

[The candles are carefully extinguished.]

Carol

Joy to the World

Hymn 267

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Dismissal*

Called by Christ,
We invite all people, serve our neighbors, and build a living faith.

Go in peace. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God!

Instrumental Musicians
Joe McGuth, Percussion

Today's Worship Team
relcmedia.org/worshipteam

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Thank you to Our Children Worship Helpers:

Natalie Bertucci
Eve Bridge
Harper Ferentz
Callie Hazlett
Eli Hazlett
Audrey LeGrand
Parker LeGrand
Brianna Marcus
Ethan Marcus
Victoria Selby
Quinn Sena-Urban

Good news of great Joy
a Savior
Christ the Lord
hope ink

Welcome to Reformation!

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.

Reformation
LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Rev. Dr. Alina S. Gayeuski, Lead Pastor	PastorAlina@relcmedia.org ext. 109
The Rev. Eileen Ruppel-Doan, Pastor	PastorEileen@relcmedia.org ext. 108
Vicar Megan Eppleman, Seminarian	VicarMegan@relcmedia.org
Christine Corson, Operations Manager	ccorson@relcmedia.org ext. 112
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Valerie Rozek, Director of Music	varozek@relcmedia.org 440-478-8163
Erik Flaten, Director of Contemporary Music	erik.flaten@relcmedia.org 509-528-8979
John Grantland, Council President	president@relcmedia.org

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Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9:00am – 3:30pm; Friday, CLOSED