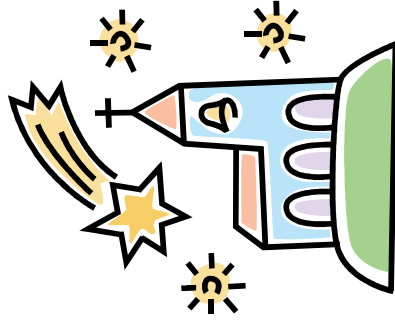


**Reformation Evangelical
Lutheran Church
3670 Perkiomen Avenue
Reading, PA 19606**

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Join Us For:

Christmas Eve Services

6:30 Family Service and Candlelight

**8:30 & 11:00 Candlelight Services
with Holy Communion**

The Reformation Scoop!

Reformation's Staff

Pastor: Reverend Steven C. Claycomb
 revclay1@verizon.net

Parish Administrator: Cindy Shirey
 mail@reformationlutheran.org

Minister of Music: Kathryn Fellman
 reformationmusic@msn.com

Organist: Donald Hinkle

Sexton: Mike Schneeberger

Custodian: Margaret McDevitt

Part-Time Secretary: Pam Schneeberger

Treasurer: Rod Kline

Church Office Hours-9 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
 610-779-0534

mail@reformationlutheran.org

Website: www.reformationlutheran.org

West Berks Mission District

www.westberksmissiondistrict.org

NEPS Website: www.godslove.org

ELCA Website: www.elca.org

Congregation Church Council Members

President: Steve Barnett

Vice President: Tony Lambert

Secretary: Jane Humbert

Alan Blackburn
Robert Galbraith
Ron Hartzell
Kurt Kohler
Herb Zettlemoyer

Wendy Richards
Shelby Rutherford
Becky Schaeffer
Donald Smith

REMINDER: Together @ nine will continue the first Sunday of each month . Join us for good food and fellowship. Meet and greet your Reformation church family.



Ushers Continued

	6:30 p.m.	8:30 p.m.	11:00 p.m.
December 24	M. & A. Reinsel	P. & K. Austin	J. Scattergood, S. Harner
	8:00 a.m.		10:45 a.m.
December 27	Kathy Miller, Dave Shirey		Bruce & Jordan Seiz

Acolytes

	8:00 a.m.	10:45 a.m.
December 6	Cade DiGuardi	Adam Gochnauer
December 13	Ben DeAcosta	Emily Moser
December 20	Derek Werner	Tyler Lamber
December 24	6:30 p.m. Cade DiGuardi, Adam Dobroskey	
	8:30 p.m. Adam Gochnauer, N. Donovan	
	11:00 p.m. Sarah Galbraith, E. Blackburn	
December 27	Michael Fost	Adam Gochnauer

Crucifers

	6:30 p.m.	8:30 p.m.	11:00 p.m.
December 24	Cory DiGuardi	Tim Austin	Scott Galbraith
	8:00 a.m.		10:45 a.m.
December 27	Michael Kern		Eric Blackburn

CD Recording Assistants

December 6 Jerry Centofanti
 December 13 Eric Blackburn
 December 20 Tim Austin
 December 24 Tim Austin
 December 27 Andrew Claycomb

CD Delivery Volunteers

Jane Farrell
 Blanche Link
 Pam Schneeberger
 Julie Seiz
 Jane Farrell

Readers

	8:00 a.m.	10:45 a.m.
December 6	Steve Fellman	Jim Rhoads
December 13	Meghan Austin	David Russell
December 20	Renee Donovan	Christmas Program
	6:30 p.m.	8:30 p.m.
December 24	Allison Larson	Meghan Austin
December 27	Elisha Barnett	Jim Rhoads
		Jeanne Gochnauer

Communion Assistants

	8:00 a.m.	10:45 a.m.
December 6	---	Tina Stanton
December 13	Teri Stoddard	---
December 20	Kathy Miller	---
December 24	8:30 p.m. Lisa Sokoloff	11:00 p.m. Carol Kohler
December 27	DeeDee Werner	Cal Booser

Nursery

	8:00 a.m.	10:45 a.m.
December 6	Nan Melber	Mosers
December 13	Sue Kern	Robyn Shaffer
December 20	Kaja O'Leary	Chrystal & Maddie Fost
December 24	6:30 p.m. Mary & Jenny Ryder	8:30 p.m. Richards
December 27	Teri Stoddard	Nancy Hemberger

Counters

December- Steve Barnett, Harold Strause, Linda Centofanti

**Opportunity House
December 17th**

Food Preparers: Please meet at the church by 2:00 p.m.— JoAnn Smith, Bonnie Claycomb, Ted Wickert, Gloria Gerhart and Jean Lombardi

Shopping Duty: Harriet Clauser Substitute: Beth Brizek

Servers: 6:30 p.m.at church or 6:45 p.m.at the shelter—Jerry Centofanti, Rich Hawk and the Youth

Substitute: Don Smith

Bakers: Please bake 4 to 5 dozen cookies this month.—Gloria Gerhart, Jeanne Gochnauer, Val Wickert, Barb Regar and Gerry Wegman.

Substitute: Pam Hoffman

Please Note: We are looking for someone to make reminder calls for Opportunity House Ministry. All information will be provided to you, and you can do this important task from the comfort of your own home! Interested?

DECEMBER SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

<u>Altar Guild</u>	8:00 a.m. Joyce Osborne	10:45 a.m. Kathy Miller Judy Plica
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Bulletin Helpers the week of

December 6	Jane Farrell (Friday, December 11)
December 13	Richard and Dolores Noble (Friday, December 18)
December 20	Linda Centofanti (Wednesday, December 23)
December 27	Patti Kline (Wednesday, December 30)

<u>Ushers</u>	8:00 a.m. Tom & Beth Brizek Randy & Muffy Reinecker Steve & Elisha Barnett	10:45 a.m. Alan & Nadine Blackburn Richard & Dolores Noble Mary, Jenny, Annie Ryder
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Welcome New Members!

Ruth Blatt-grew up in Reading and is a retired Registered Nurse. Until her retirement she was employed by Berks Visiting Nurses Association. She and her late husband Kerry have two grown children: Mark, a chef at Mom Chaffe’s, and Brooke, who is employed by the Wilson School District in the Maintenance Department. Ruth loves being involved with people and volunteers at Blue Marsh, the Exeter Library, and Elmcroft.

Domenic and Candy Fantilli- live just a few blocks from Reformation. Domenic, who hails from this area, is a general contractor specializing in residential buildings. They have four adopted children: Elina, 12, and Bruno, 11, are in 6th grade. Nastya, 10 is in the 4th grade, and Denis (pronounced Deh-NEES) is 6 and in the first grade. Candy, originally from Bloomsburg, ran a bakery for 11 years, but gave it up 2 years ago, when they traveled to Russia to adopt Elina, Nastya, and Denis. She sells Avon products and is a school aide. Candy has been coming to Reformation with Kelly Brown.

Sarah and Bryan Reichelt -and their dog Jasper reside on Perkiomen Avenue. Sarah is the assistant manager of the Boyertown branch of Susquehanna Bank. Bryan has been in the hospitality business for 10 years and is the general manager of the Best Western hotel in King of Prussia. In his spare time, he enjoys restoring cars. Sarah, a Steelers fan, is originally from Lancaster, and Bryan is from Pine Grove. They moved into the area about a year ago. Bryan and Sarah are expecting their first child in February. Reformation is the first church they visited after moving here, and happily – they stayed!

Kevin and Jan Rothbard-and their three sons reside in Birdsboro. Nick, 16, is in 11th grade, and enjoys football, skiing, and playing saxophone. Brian, 13, also into skiing and football, is in 8th grade. He is a Boy Scout, and plays the drums. Chris, 10, is a 5th grader and likes skiing, baseball, and playing the sax. Kevin is a systems analyst with the Vanguard Group, and Jan is a reading specialist for the 6th grade at Reiffton. They enjoy doing activities as a family, and spending time with extended family and friends. The Rothbards “heard good things about Reformation,” and here they are!

News from Utanziwa

We have received letters from our partners in Tanzania. This starts to be a busy time for the community. Crops must be planted so that they can benefit from the rainy season which begins very shortly.

Ambikile writes that they celebrated communion with us on October 25, using the sister set of communion ware and dedicated the service to the partnership.

A priority for Pastor Ntulo and Ambikile has been to provide an estimate back to us on the funds required to complete bringing water to the other sections of the parish. We now have that estimate -- \$3500. That is great news and brings the total cost of the project to be under \$20,000. The initial estimate received in 2004 was almost double that. Part of the difference is the exchange rate – a dollar goes further there - but a great deal of the difference is the shrewdness and the hard work of the people of Utanziwa.

Holiday Giving Opportunity

Many of us struggle this time of year with the dilemma – “What can I give _____ for Christmas this year? He / she has everything already!” We have organizations like the Heifer Project that provide an alternative way to express your love and appreciation for someone by making a difference in the lives of others in their honor. The Tanzania Partnership Committee would like to offer a similar opportunity. You can choose a gift for Utanziwa in honor of your friend or loved one. There are many needs there where a gift would make a substantial difference in people’s lives.



A baobab tree will be posted on the wall of the narthex with ornaments hanging on it representing needs of Utanziwa in a wide variety of prices. Packs of composition books and soccer balls for the schools, vestments for the church, a solar panel, a cow – many choices. Please -- consider giving an “alternative gift” this holiday season. If you decide to participate, please take an ornament from the tree and follow the instructions on the display. You will be provided a certificate that can be given to the person recognizing the gift and explaining the impact it will have in Utanziwa.

From My Heart to Yours

“Oh no! It’s coming AGAIN!”

“I don’t even want to THINK about it!”

“I’m not going there (to the mall) this year!”

“I’m not doing that (whatever it is) this year!”

I’m sure I’m not the only one hearing comments like these or something similar, at least. SO - What’s coming AGAIN?? It’s CHRIST-MAS, of course! It is becoming more and more of a stressor every year - and it’s starting earlier, too. As I write this, it isn’t even Thanksgiving week yet - and the hype and stress are in full swing!

How terribly SAD -as Christians it seems to me that we need to become pro-active to protect our minds and attitudes from what’s whirling all around us. WHO IS THE REASON for the SEASON anyway!! We know the answer is JESUS, but I challenge you– do we REALLY know it’s JESUS— EMMANUEL—GOD WITH US?

For people who are grieving, focusing on Jesus is often the only way they can survive this Season! All of the long TO DO lists and frantic activity just go away –and the PEACE of JESUS fills that space. It isn’t easy, but it can be very special and meaningful.

So –can I suggest that you rethink Advent and your preparations for CHRIST—MAS? Consider giving the gift of time spent doing something meaningful together. Lots of these kinds of things don’t even cost any money! Take a walk together! Read and discuss the Christmas story together—try to imagine what it might have been really like to live in a barn. Go and visit one! Help an elderly neighbor. Visit someone on the church shut-in list. I’m sure you can come up with your own creative ideas as well.

I’ve been studying our Jewish roots and heritage, and it is so amazing that as you dig into the Bible’s Hebrew Scripture (Old Testament) Jesus is there! One opportunities I’ve become aware of for this Season of Preparation is Jesus in Hanukkah which will include the lighting of the Menorah with teaching by Jeffery D. Miller to show us Jesus, the Light of the world in this ancient celebration. Come and join me, Friday evening, December 11th at Grace Fellowship Church, 622 Old Lancaster Pike, Shillington.

Be blessed and prepare your hearts to receive God’s most precious Gift of all—no assembly required—just a heart with room for HIM!

Serving Jesus,

Judy Plica



Annual College Recognition Sunday

The Parish Outreach Committee will host its annual College Student Recognition on Sunday, January 3, 2010. Thirty-eight students have received an Advent calendar greeting card (complete with windows to open each day!) and a letter inviting them to a sit-down breakfast at 9:15 in the fellowship hall. The students have also been invited to take part in the worship services that day. You'll spot them wearing their college sweatshirts. Please plan on being present in worship on January 3rd to help welcome home our students.

Jingle Bell Poinsettias for Christmas

Please help us fill our sanctuary with poinsettias from Glick's Greenhouse in Oley. The cost is \$8.50 for a 5-7 bloom plant in a 6 1/2" pot. We have ordered a new variety this year - Jingle Bell. This beautiful red flower is splashed with white coloring.



The flowers can be given in honor or memory of loved ones. The final day to order will be Sunday, December 20.

Angel Tree

Our annual Angel Tree Ministry is underway. Look for the tree in the narthex and give a gift to a child in need. Something new to note for this year's program — please bring your gifts unwrapped in gift bags for the children. Gift cards are also welcome. For more information please see Heather Hinnershitz.

The Coming of Jesus

The Innkeeper and those in the Inn
Had no time for an unborn child,
No time for the Babe in the manger
Or for Mary, His-Mother, so mild
They simply ignored Him.

Herod and all cohorts
Showed false interest in this child king.
Their only thought was to survive
To get rid this threatening thing.
They deplored Him.

But shepherds who heard the angels that night
Set out to seek what they were told;
They left their flocks upon the hills
To prove the prophecies of old.
They explored Him.

Wise men travelled following a star
That led them to the place
Where they could offer costly gifts
As they gazed upon His face,
They adored Him.

Shall we ignore, shall we deplore
The Son of God Who came
To be born of a Virgin
To bear a Holy Name
Or shall we leave all that we have
To explore the life He bore
To bring our gifts, our very lives
To the God, Whom we adore.



WELCA EVENTS:

December 7th - Fall Bible Study at 7:00 p.m.

December 8th-LWR at 9:30 a.m.

Prayer Shawl Ministry— will be taking the month of December off. We'll see you in January.

Special Invitations from the West Berks Mission District...

Check out all the news at www.westberksmissiondistrict.org

December 2 – Mission fair at Robeson Lutheran Church, Plowville – 6 PM

An international meal will be served. \$7 adults and \$4 for children. Mark Lauer will speak about his Camp Noah experience. Mission exhibitors include: Arctic Ministry, Mission trip to Jamaica, Mission trip to Tanzania, Lutheran Congregational Services, West Berks Free Medical Clinic Inc., Ministry to the Deaf.

December 6 - The Marini Harp Ministry -3 PM

Calvary Lutheran Church, Laureldale – Enjoy hearing carols on the harps by the Marini children and a Gospel message by Alex Marini, harp maker. A reception will follow the program.

December 12 – A Night in Bethlehem – 4-6 PM

Bethany Lutheran Church, West Reading - A unique and special hands-on experience that brings the Christmas story to life.

December 13 - Drive-thru Nativity - 5:30-8 PM

Allegheny Lutheran Church, Knauers - See the Christmas Story unfold as you drive from scene to scene.



- Attend church and worship with others. We are called to be in community with other believers and to encourage one another in the faith.
- Love and serve others. Christ came to serve and to save. Think of others before yourself and look to the needs of others. Christmas gives us more than ample opportunities to do this.
- Give from the heart. Money is tight for many this year. How can you give of yourself? We get so caught up in finding the perfect gift. The older I get I find that the best gift is time. Take time to be with those you love and care about. It is the relationships that count, not how much you spend or whether or not you found the perfect gift.
- Focus on the Christ child and His reason for coming into this world. He has given us the greatest gift of all – Salvation- if we believe in Him as our Lord and Savior. Share this with those who are not believers- so that they too can spend eternity in heaven.

May you have a Blessed and Christ- filled Christmas.

Judy Laubenstein RN, BSN, CDE-Diakon Life Services



January Newsletter Deadline — December 13, 2009

Please use the green forms for newsletter and bulletin articles. They are available in the narthex and library or e-mail us at: mail@reformationlutheran.org. Articles received after the due date will not be able to be included in that newsletter. Thank you for your help in this matter.

Deadline for bulletin announcements is Wednesday at 12:00 noon.

Deadline for committee reports for council is December 11th.

Health Note for December

“Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” NKJV

The holidays are coming. It is a busy and frantic time. My question to you is “Where is your heart?” Your actions will tell where your heart is. Do you get caught up in cleaning, shopping, decorating, writing cards, baking and so forth? Those things are fine to a point, but when they take you away from the real meaning of Christmas, they are not okay. How do you stay focused on Christ during this busy time and remain spiritually healthy?

- Take time each day to read and study the Bible. Find a quiet place free from distractions and not just read your Bible or devotions, but actually reflect on the message and what it means for you.
- Believe in and receive God’s love. God loves you because you are a child of His. He is concerned about you and wants the best for you. With Him all things are possible.
- Pray and meditate. Again, find a quiet place and spend time with the Lord. Most of us are guilty of doing all the talking, but we should take time to listen. It is hard for us to be still and just be with God. We can only get better at this by practicing the disciplines of solitude and silence.
- Obey God. Study His Word and pray to discern His will for you- then obey Him.
- Cry out to God. Tell God what is truly on your heart and mind. He already knows. I feel such peace when I do this.
- Surrender to God and let go. As a nurse I want to fix people and situations. I believe it is part of the nature of one in a caring profession. Yet, I know it is not my job to fix things- it is God’s. We need to place those broken relationships, illnesses, financial issues and other problems at the foot of the Cross and let God take care of them.
- Have faith and trust in God. When you are overwhelmed, trust God to help you decide what is important and what is not. Trust Him to take care of your needs. Trust Him to give you strength to get through each day.

Movie Night

Friday, December 18th, 2009 is movie night at Reformation starting at 6:30 p.m.

Ages 8-108 are invited to join us for an evening out. Feel free to invite family, friends or neighbors who might enjoy this event. Come out and enjoy a movie, share in fellowship and good conversation. You can even bring a box of popcorn.

The feature this month is *White Christmas* (1954). After leaving the Army after W.W.II, Bob Wallace and Phil Davis team up to become a top song-and-dance act. Davis plays matchmaker and introduces Wallace to a pair of beautiful sisters (Betty and Judy). Starring: Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney, and Vera –Ellen.

There is a list of features for the year in the narthex. Pick one up and mark your calendar for the coming year.



Youth — Save the Dates...

Sunday, December 20, 2009

The Youth Ministry Committee is planning an evening of Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 20, starting at 6:30 P.M. We will gather at the church and then walk around the Reiffon area singing at the homes of fellow church members and friends for about an hour. Then we will return to the church and enjoy some hot chocolate and cookies. This event is opening to EVERYONE (youth and adults). Bring a flashlight (to read the songbook), a half dozen of your favorite cookies (to share with the hot chocolate), and dress warmly and join us as we share the Christmas spirit throughout the community.

Friday - Sunday, February 19 – 21, 2010

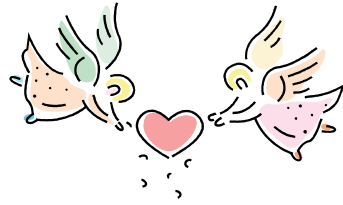
WBMD Youth Event with *CAPTIVE FREE* at Grace Lutheran Church, Shillington!

Flowers

The altar flowers have a new look. Our new provider is Carol Shoppes Florist, 320 W. Neversink Rd., Reading, Pa. The price has dropped to \$25.00 per vase. The same procedure will remain to pay for the flowers. Please use an envelope and mark it flowers for the Sunday you have chosen. Help decorate our church with fresh flowers in honor of or in memory of someone. The new chart is on the bulletin board outside the library, for 2010.

Prayer List for December

Please keep the following in your prayers for the coming month. If you would like to place a name on the prayer list, please call the information to Cheryl Hadley at 610-779-7901 or email her at chrylhdy@yahoo.com. To place someone's name on the list, please be sure you have their permission to do so. We will keep their name on the list for one month. If the name needs to remain on the list for the next month, just call Cheryl with an update.



Reformation Family: Evelyn Keller, Jayne Phillips, Reynold Miller, Mildred Arner, Marion Henne, Dorothy Oswald, Grace Sanna, Marguerite Scholl, Pearl Gerth, Skyler Reed, Dorothy Arndt, Barney Bombay, Genevive Cloak, Hazel Cosentino, Sue Wood, Jay Yerger, Mae Hall, Julia and Julie Seiz.

Friends of Reformation: Jordan Shickel, Howard Kohler, Ann Schaeffer, Dolores Hilbert, Paul O'Leary, Patricia Philion, Daniel Heffner, Michael, Matthew Tobias, Rita McHale, Bob Korn, Joe Gargiulo, Krista Stone, Tori Jones and family, Terry Keiser, Elvia Cataldo, Kate Schimmel, Connor McKemey, Woodrow Warren, Karen Heck, Melissa Bennett, Joan Hinkle, Maureen Manzella, Miriam Nein, Andrea Bolger, Alyssa Bray, Doris Antonacci, Leo Kuhns, Dennis Herwerden, Steven Child, and Justin Scarle.

Thank you to Cheryl Hadley for being the coordinator of the Prayer List over the past years. We are very grateful to her for her dedication to this Ministry at Reformation Lutheran Church.

Beginning January 1, the Prayer List Coordinator will be Pam Schneeberger. Please call the church office at 610-779-0534 or Pam at 610-370-0790 for prayer requests.



Office Help Needed

Please consider using your gifts to volunteer time in our church office. We need help in all areas. Some examples are answering phones, filing, typing newsletter articles, folding bulletins, putting together the newsletter for mailing, calling weekly service participants and doing general office duties. We also need help with our website. Call the church office with any times that you can help.

Reformation Polo Shirts

This is your opportunity to order additional Reformation Polo Shirts. The men's polo shirt is available in colors of white, navy blue and burgundy (sizes small through XXL). The women's polo shirt is available in colors of white, pink and navy blue (sizes small through XXL). The cost is \$17 per shirt. If interested, please contact Jane Humbert (610-478-4030).



GriefShare

The most recent 13 week cycle of GriefShare concluded on November 19th. The next 13 week cycle will begin on January 14th. I realize there is a rather long break in between cycles, and I am very much aware that grief doesn't take a break!

I am inviting you to call me ANYTIME during this time if you need to talk. Please leave a message if I don't answer, and I will promise to get back to you as soon as I can.

Please put GriefShare on your 2010 Resolution list and come join us as we Journey from Mourning to Joy.

Serving Jesus,
Judy Plica

Thank You



Thank you, Pastor Steve and Teri Stoddard, for sharing your inspiring stories and slides from your two-week trip to Tanzania the end of September. All those who attended the October 11 "Welcome Home Luncheon" were blessed to feel a closer connection to our brothers and sisters in Utanziwa Parish. We now have the personal contacts and information that we need to continue supporting our partner congregation. The Hospitality Committee did another great job of hosting this luncheon. Thanks to the many people who so willingly helped in the kitchen and to the following people who contributed festive table centerpieces: Kathy Austin, Nadine Blackburn, Harriet Clauser, Bonnie Claycomb, Jeanne Gochnauer, Brenda Haag, Carol Kohler, Linda Moyer, Alison Reinsel, Joanne Scattergood, Shirley Harner, and Pam Schneeberger. Finally, thanks to Julie Seiz and the Cherub Choir for leading us in song.