



Reformation Lutheran Church

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

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Cover: Evie, Paul, and Kate Fernandez load donations in their car for delivery to local agencies. Above: Steve Niss and Paul Stearns load cases of water for the Life Center.

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RENEWED IN CHRIST



Dear Reformation,

2021 was a year filled with unimaginable challenges. Yet, in many ways, the year also provided us with unimaginable opportunities to celebrate mission and ministry together.

During 2021 we were able to once again gather together in person for worship, witness to our faith that guides us through serving our neighbors, and celebrate beautiful additions to our property that will continue to serve future generations

As we said thank you and goodbye to Deacon Beth, we were reminded again of the great joy in the mission we are called to share.

We give thanks and praise to God for her work among us and the example her leadership set for us in the way we continue to live out ministry together at Reformation.

The future is always uncertain, but the promise we have to be renewed in Christ each day sustains us for the road ahead. Together we look forward to where God is calling us next and the ways we are renewed for the work of ministry in this world.

Giving thanks for the gift of being renewed in Christ at Reformation!

**PASTOR WAYNE MATTHIAS-LONG
AND PASTOR ALINA GAYEUSKI**

FROM THE CONGREGATION PRESIDENT

I have often looked at the Annual Meeting and Report as looking back on what the Church, our Pastors and members have accomplished. While this is important, I feel that this year it is critical to not only look at what we have done but what we have yet to do. Looking back, we have learned we have strong, capable Pastors, and generous, compassionate members; we are fortunate that both have served to create a strong viable Church family and community.

Quoting Romans 8:28, "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

As God guides us through 2022, let us remember that we all must work together for our Church and our purpose. We thank God for the gift of each other, for our community of faith, and for the love we share at Reformation.

God Bless you all!

DEBBIE CONLEY
PRESIDENT



Sunday School students celebrate Rally Day with giant coloring pages.



LIFE TOGETHER

The celebrations of faith life milestones are some of the most important parts of our life together as a community of faith. In 2021 we rejoiced in these opportunities to see God at work in our lives.

Above: The 2021 Confirmation class poses after Confirmation worship on Sunday, October 17. Ten students are part of this class. Pictured back row, l to r: Ethan Strain, Emma Strain, Adelaide Smith. Middle row: Jillian Hacik, Madison Benzing, Corinne Skarbek. Front row: Marissa Kamin, Megan Reagle. Not pictured: Benjamin Strain, Matthew Sharer.

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INVITE ALL PEOPLE

Throughout the year we celebrated our invitational welcome to all people. Some highlights of this through the year included new worship, serving, and fellowship opportunities.

In March, April, and May we once again hosted our drive through worship experience called Worship on the Way. We celebrated Easter together with our outdoor This is the Night! Easter Vigil celebration. And in the fall we hosted a PAR Recycle Works Electronics Recycling Event. In all of these times, and so many others, we welcomed members, friends, and neighbors to be part of our mission and ministry at Reformation.

"The art installation, 'Prayers from the Heart,' is a testament that the individual prayers offered up by each person combine to become part of our whole community." - Sue Bianco

Above: The Prayers from the Heart art installation shows off ribbons representing prayers and palms from Palm Sunday. The heart was built by father-son team Pat and Ryan Burke and has provided a space to display our prayers throughout this year.



PAVE THE WAY

2021 brought many changes and additions to our outdoor space at Reformation. The installation of a woodchip path, gazebo, brick walkway, and labyrinth were all completed this year. These meaningful spaces will be gifts to future generations and opportunities to grow in faith together.

Above left: Dave Chorney, in the new gazebo, led these projects and provided his exceptional professional skills to the work. The gazebo was dedicated in memory of Deb Felton at a special service in September.

Above center: The brick walkway is named "Hughey Way" in celebration of the leadership and contributions of Kris and Dick Hughey to the mission and ministry of Reformation.

Above right: Vince Walsh (kneeling) of Walsh Landscaping places stones in the labyrinth. Vince helped create the vision and complete the outstanding work on our property. The labyrinth will be dedicated in memory of Bob and Madaline Heim's faithful witness.



SERVE OUR NEIGHBORS

Outreach continued and grew during 2021. New programs to serve our neighbors locally and globally became part of our life together while many other significant outreach efforts continued with the great leadership of the Community Action Ministry Team and with the generous support of Reformation members.

Top: Joyce McNally and Louise Clark pose with dresses made by members for the Dress A Girl Around the World project. This new initiative, led by Joyce, helped girls in Sierra Leone receive brand new dresses. Members sew at home and gather to sew together at the church each month. These dresses were displayed in the sanctuary and blessed during worship in October.

Bottom left: Kristin Gress, Patty Boccella, and Pat Donnelly help at the Cradles to Crayons Big Give drop off event. Reformation was one of multiple locations throughout the greater Philadelphia where donations could be dropped off to support the children served by Cradles to Crayons. This was just one of our God's Work, Our Hands projects in the fall.

Bottom right: Linda Bucher (center) and Bob Barkhau (right) deliver snack bags after worship at The Welcome Church on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. Reformation members join worshippers at the Welcome Church several times during the year for fellowship and providing meals

180

Snack bags delivered to The Welcome Church during three visits from Reformation members. The Welcome Church is a church without walls especially for those living with homelessness.

70

Dresses made for Dress A Girl Around the World. This organization provides dresses with labels to girls in developing nations to protect them from being trafficked.

128

Holiday Food Bags donated to local agencies. Bags given at Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas go to support those served by Gratitude for Grandparents, Migrant Ministries, the Philadelphia Group, and Phoenix Recovery House.

510

Cans of soup collected during the annual Souper Bowl of Caring collection. These cans were donated to Chester Eastside and Media Food Pantry.

BUILD A LIVING FAITH

"Sunday School has adapted with the times and began the year virtually, with a transition back to in-person and outdoors in the fall. Having all the children in a large group has allowed everyone to grow with each other in new ways that have brought a silver lining to our new format!" - Kara Fontes

Our education programs provided significant opportunities for learning and growing in faith. Our Sunday School program was held virtually in the spring and in person in the fall.

Connection Groups were held twice during the year offering a variety of fellowship, learning, and engagement opportunities.

Women's Connection continued to gather virtually and in person throughout the year.

Vacation Bible School was held outside in summer 2021. The week celebrated being on Adventure Island and learning about God's love.

During the week the 45 students along with their leaders, learned Bible stories and songs, played games, and served others.

Below: Students play games with the giant parachute - a favorite VBS tradition!





MEMORIAL TO THE LOST

In September, Reformation hosted the Heeding God's Call Memorial to the Lost display. This traveling memorial represents deaths from gun violence during the past five years in Delaware County. The display of t-shirts was placed along our woodchip path. This gave the opportunity to utilize the memorial as a prayer path - praying for the end of gun violence and for those who loved the ones who have died.

"Last summer I walked the prayer path at Reformation that was lined with t-shirts from the Memorial to the Lost... a very powerful reminder of how gun violence impacts our communities."

- Marilyn Berberich

Above: Volunteers who installed the display on the property gather with the Memorial to the Lost sign. The display was at Reformation during September 2021. A video providing a "virtual walk" through the prayer path is available on the church website.

THANK YOU, DEACON BETH!

In November, Deacon Beth Barkhau retired from ministry. Reformation was privileged to have Deacon Beth serve this congregation since January 2017.

During Deacon Beth's ministry at Reformation, she helped to expand our outreach ministries by creating new connections with organizations. She brought her gift of creativity to make new spaces of engagement and helped us welcome many to participate in the life and ministry of Reformation.

On November 7 we gathered to celebrate Deacon Beth and Bob's ministry at Reformation. Our Fall Fest Celebration included a food truck, yard games, and fire pit. Guests were able to explore the van Deacon Beth and Bob will be using to travel during retirement. The evening concluded with Holden Evening Prayer by candlelight.

Thank you, Deacon Beth, for the gift of your leadership and your ministry among God's people at Reformation!

CELEBRATED LIFETIME MINISTRY AWARD

Deacon Beth was honored by United Lutheran Seminary as the 2021 recipient of the Celebrated Lifetime Ministry Award. This award is presented to an alumnus of the seminary that modeled excellency in a lifetime of service to the church. Reformation was honored to host representatives from the seminary for this award presentation to Deacon Beth on September 19.





ST. NICK

Bishop Nicholas' annual visit to Reformation also brought David Chiles, Executive Director of Lutheran Settlement House. The gifts are blessed during worship for seven local agencies who will receive these items for those they serve.

LIVE FROM REFORMATION!

In May new cameras and screens were added to the sanctuary to support our ability to livestream worship. Each week our services are broadcast live on our website, in the lobby, and in the nursery. Our online worshipping community continues to grow as Reformation members join us from home (and others join us from around the country!).

In June Michael Sottile became our Livestreaming Director and continues to help make our online worship accessible and meaningful

The installation of the technology was made possible by a generous bequest from the estate of Ben Thomas. Ben was an educator and loved the ability to connect people to the church. This livestream technology has become a perfect way to remember and give thanks for his faithful witness.

Join us online for Sunday worship at relcmedia.org/virtualchurch.

ABUNDANT GENEROSITY

The abundant generosity of Reformation continued throughout 2021. In all, Reformation's benevolence totaled more than \$151,000 and was given to over 30 organizations and ministries.

In addition to the financial gifts Reformation is able to provide, countless in-kind donations throughout the year - such as food and clothing items - also contributed to the generosity lived out by Reformation every day.

Below: ELCA Mission Funding Directors Pastor Marissa Krey and Pastor Ben Hogue receive a symbolic check for Hurricane Ida Relief from Reformation. Pastor Krey and Pastor Hogue visited Reformation in October to thank the congregation for the generous support of Lutheran Disaster Response and World Hunger. The check was presented by Deacon Beth, Pastor Alina, and Pastor Wayne. This gift was made possible through a special offering that was matched two-to-one by our Endowment Outreach Fund.



WORLD HUNGER & DISASTER RESPONSE

During 2021 Reformation donated to Lutheran efforts responding to needs in India, Haiti, and throughout the United States as well as global hunger relief efforts.



\$55,000



\$60,800

SEPA SYNOD MISSION SUPPORT

Each year Reformation tithes 10% of income to SEPA Synod. In turn SEPA Synod gives 50% of all gifts received to the ELCA. 50% of all that is received by the ELCA is used for outreach.

HOLIDAY OFFERING & ENDOWMENT

Other gifts from Holiday Offering and Endowment along with special offerings have provided generous financial support of local organizations and ministries.



\$41,600



A MESSAGE FROM ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP

*Elizabeth
Eaton*

Dear friends in Christ,

The last year has been one of adapting and learning. In many places we have seen vibrant and vital ministry spring forth from changes made due to the pandemic. Digital worship opportunities have introduced to our congregations people who may never have walked into one of our buildings. Many congregations have found new ways to invite people to share their generosity through online giving. And many ministries have found just how vital they are as they continue to serve alongside people in their communities.

The first chapter of James, verse 17, reminds us that “Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.” Yes, this has been a season of change, but Scripture also reminds us that we serve a generous, steadfast God.

While we stay rooted in God’s enduring, unchanging promise, God also gives us the gifts of creativity and learning. Across all three expressions of the church we have used those gifts to serve God, love our neighbor and share the good news of Jesus Christ. In this time of change, we have opened our arms wider to meet people where they are, living into the reality that we are not defined or confined by the four walls of our buildings.

Through all this, I am so grateful for your generous sharing of creativity, time, talents and resources. All good gifts do come from God, and we are called to share and use those gifts. We have and will continue to answer that call. There is still much change and learning to come, but God’s steadfast love energizes us for the work God is still doing in the world through this church.

Elizabeth A. Eaton

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

“Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.”