



ANNUAL REPORT

Table of Contents

03

Living Hope -
Pastors' Message

04

From the President

05

Thank you,
Pastor Wayne!

06

Invite all People

08

Serve our Neighbors

10

Build a Living Faith

12

Welcome,
Pastor Eileen!

13

Called by Christ

14

Living Generosity

16

Message from
Bishop Eaton



Victoria Selby pours water into the font while Pastor Eileen leads the Thanksgiving for Baptism on All Saints Sunday. The ribbons hanging above worshippers in the sanctuary have the names of saints who have joined the church triumphant.

ON THE COVER:

Top - The Holy Hikers Connection Group pose for a photo after a walk on a Sunday afternoon this fall. Bottom left: Reformation high school seniors attend the annual Tuscarora Lutheran Youth Retreat and show off their ROCK posters signed by all the youth. Bottom right: Pastor Paul and Donna Jann celebrate Reformation Sunday in style as Martin and Katie Luther.

Living Hope



Dear Reformation,

This has been a year of incredible change at Reformation. From celebrating the retirement of Pastor Wayne to calling us both to serve in new ways at Reformation, the year has been marked with many endings and beginnings. Amidst those changes we have been reminded of the presence of God that does not change - and the hope we have for all that is to come.

We give thanks for the living hope that continues to lead us and guide us through our shared mission and ministry at Reformation. We look to the future of shared ministry with you as we listen for where God is calling us and joyfully move forward together.

Thank you for the privilege and joy of serving as pastors of this incredible congregation.

In living hope,

Pastor Alina Gayeuski & Pastor Eileen Ruppel-Doan

From the President

Dear Reformation,

2022 will always be a momentous year in the history of Reformation Lutheran Church. We were trying to figure out how best to move forward and maintain the ministries of Deacon Beth with one less person. Pastor Wayne made the decision to retire and then we had to determine how can we possibly serve the needs of this congregation. Most congregations must start from the beginning and currently that is a two-year process. Fortunately, Pastor Alina wanted to continue at Reformation as Lead Pastor. That still left the work of 3 people falling on one person.

Based upon some strong networking, we had the opportunity to have Vicar Eileen join us over the summer. She took over Vacation Bible School and continued to look forward. The congregation exercised wise judgement to extend a full-time call to Vicar Eileen as Pastor.

We are fortunate to have a strong Congregation who is willing to support Clergy, Staff and Church Council. This year brought forward the challenges of managing change; we have been successful since we have walked together as one team. As I think about 2023, one thought comes to mind. We are two years away from celebrating our 75th Anniversary. That is something to really get excited about!!!

John Grantland
President



President John Grantland places the Memorial to the Lost sign at the entrance to the prayer path. Reformation hosted the Heeding God's Call display in September with t-shirts representing people killed by gun violence over the past three years in Delaware County. Volunteers helped to install the memorial on our property.

Thank You, Pastor Wayne!



On June 30, 2022, Pastor Wayne Matthias-Long retired, concluding his nearly forty year ministry with nine years serving Reformation. On his final Sunday, a Phillies themed tailgating party was held at Reformation and Pastor Wayne threw out the first pitch during a celebration baseball game.

Left: Pastor Wayne leads his final Sermon on the Steps. For the occasion he composed a special song thanking Reformation for the years of shared ministry. The final verse is below.

*This is a song for you, Reformation
Dear Reformation, the joy of my heart
We've shared God's abundance with
 grace overflowing
Welcoming all for God's love never ends.*

Deacon Beth and Pastor Alina pose with Pastor Wayne after the Celebration of Ministry during his retirement party. The framed stained glass was a gift from the congregation and crafted by Reformation member, Dave Chorney, using a piece of stained glass removed from the sanctuary during renovations.



Invite all People



Reformation's commitment to invitation and welcome continued to grow throughout 2022. This year gave many new opportunities to share our love! We updated our Welcome Statement, opened our space to new community groups, and celebrated favorite traditions.

Blessing of the Animals

Every October, in remembrance of St. Francis, we celebrate the gift of God's creation and the companionship animals provide in our lives. On October 2, Pastor Alina and Pastor Eileen blessed the pets of Reformation. Donations were also collected for the Providence Animal Shelter to help support their work caring for local animals. Above left: Pastor Alina blesses a dog and receives thank you kisses.

Trunk or Treat

For the second year in a row, Reformation hosted a Trunk or Treat on Halloween weekend during Sunday School. Reformation Sunday School students and community members spent the hour trick or treating among the trunks in the back parking lot. Above center: The Sena-Urban Family poses with their CareBear trunk during this fun event!

Scholar in Residence

Dr. Crystal Hall, the Kraft Assistant Professor for Biblical Studies at United Lutheran Seminary, was Reformation's 2022 Scholar in Residence. Dr. Hall presented a Saturday morning program and preached at worship. Above right: Dr. Hall leads an Adult Forum on Sunday. Her topic was on the ecology found in Genesis and Revelation.



The Lent art installation: *Renewed in Christ*.

Growing in Welcome

In June, Reformation's Council passed this updated Welcome Statement

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.

"Being part of the team to revise our Welcome Statement was a joyous process. Expanding from our Mission Statement we aimed to not only INVITE people, but to recommit ourselves to making Reformation a safe and inclusive congregation." - David Fontes, Welcome Statement Task Force Member

Serve our Neighbors

Reformation's commitment to serving God's people and God's creation continues to be central to our life together.



Feeding the Hungry

Edna Bogert and Linda Bucher help move Thanksgiving food bags out to local organizations that will receive the donations.



Caring for Creation

Marilyn and John Berberich, Joe Trainor, and Kris Hughey pose in the gazebo after cleaning Rose Tree Road as part of the Eco Team's fall clean up.



Providing for All

Cradles to Crayons staff picks up Lent Care Kit bags for children served in the Philadelphia area.

“Reformation’s Mission Statement, which we say at the close of each service, grows more meaningful to me each time I hear it. I just love that we are an inclusive congregation, not only ‘inviting all people,’ but making them feel welcome here! Recently, someone told me that it was Reformation’s commitment to ‘serving all people’ that drew her family to become members. This is one of the ways we ‘build a living faith!” - Edna Bogert, Community Action Ministry Member

More than Numbers

Reformation's generosity is immeasurable! But we tally many of our donations - and celebrate these gifts and the way they are serving our neighbors.

From homemade dresses to bags of food to hot meals - Reformation's generous outreach takes many shapes and forms during the year. Here's just a few ways that looked in 2022.



445

Souper Bowl Food Items

Oil, honey, dried beans, and canned fish were collected for the Media Food Bank as we celebrated Souper Bowl Sunday!



601

Pairs of Socks

Reformation collected as part of the Joy of Sox program as socks are the most requested shelter item.



403

National Giving Alliance

The annual collection of socks and underwear for the National Giving Alliance was held in August.



160

Life Center Meals

Reformation served meals five times during the year (32 hot meals delivered each time) to those served at the Life Center in Upper Darby.



102

Dress A Girl

Handmade dresses (with pockets!) and tags were donated to girls in Sierra Leone.



142

Holiday Food Bags

Bags of food and grocery store gift cards were given to Migrant Ministries, Second Time Around Parents, The Philadelphia Group, and Phoenix Recovery Houses.

Build a Living Faith

At Reformation we create a dynamic faith community - nurturing relationships, providing support, and living out our ministry together in learning and worship.



Mentorship

Confirmation students and mentors pose for a photo after the Confirmation worship in October. Students are paired with an adult member for their two years in Confirmation - giving our students an example of faithful living.



Scholarship

Seminarian Sarah Fryman, one of three 2022 Reinhard Scholarship recipients, shares the Sermon on the Steps with Reformation children. The Reinhard Scholarship provides financial support to seminarians.



Partnership

Reformation members Sally Helms, Kris Hughey, and Laura Reiter present a check to Pastor Kayla Sadowy and President Ruth Moyse at Grace Lutheran Church, Broomall. This gift supports a building project at Grace - a redeveloping congregation in our synod.

"I cannot thank you enough for your most generous gift ... Beyond the financial support to move the project forward, your gift has inspired hope and humility that others find our endeavor so impactful. As we continue to reform our congregation through this ministry, we look forward to discovering how the Spirit may be moving us all in Delaware County." - Pastor Kayla Sadowy, Grace Lutheran Church, Broomall

Life Together



Second Grade students receive their Bibles and Pastor Wayne offers a blessing during worship.



Confirmations

6 Students affirmed their faith during a special worship on Sunday, October 23.



Bible Presentations

10 second graders received their Bibles during worship on April 3.



Funerals

12 funerals were led by Reformation clergy in 2022.



Baptisms

3 baptisms were celebrated during worship.



First Communions

7 children were welcomed to God's table and received first communion.



Weddings

5 weddings were celebrated this year!

Welcome, Pastor Eileen!

In June, Pastor Eileen Ruppel-Doan joined the Reformation staff as the Pastoral Assistant. In November the congregation called her to serve as Pastor.



Pastor Eileen grew up in the Chicago suburbs, attended Augustana College, and graduated from United Lutheran Seminary in 2022. Her primary responsibilities as part of her call at Reformation will include education, youth, outreach, and communications. We are thrilled to celebrate her ordination at Reformation in early 2023.

"Pastor Eileen brings a fresh set of eyes that can see new things to improve on, that may have been blinded from us because of routine." Madison Benzing, member of the Call Committee

Called by Christ

We continue to look with excitement to what is next as we take on these next opportunities to grow and respond to God's love in our lives in this new year!

Looking to the Future

In 2023 we'll be kicking off a Capital Campaign to fund a new roof, pavilion and outdoor fellowship space, and a memorial garden with space for cremains burial.

In 2021 and 2022 we already completed many projects in our master landscape plan - our gazebo, labyrinth, and wood chipped path. These new planned spaces - the pavilion and memorial garden - will continue to enhance our ministry opportunities and deepen our connections with this congregation and community.

Right: Dick Hughey speaks at the Labyrinth Dedication on May 22 as we dedicated the Labyrinth in memory of Bob and Madaline Heim.



"How exciting it is to see the use of our outdoor space by so many members of Reformation and our community. The addition of the pavilion and memorial garden will provide even more opportunities for fellowship and spiritual moments of remembrance of loved ones." - Dick Hughey

Living Generosity

Abundant generosity once again supported opportunities to share and support our neighbors locally and globally

The war in Ukraine became a significant part of our life as global citizens in 2022. Reformation took the opportunity to respond to our neighbors across the world by supporting the work of Lutheran World Relief (LWR). LWR was on the ground in Ukraine and neighboring countries, providing humanitarian aid and relief to those most impacted by the war. From providing meals to temporary housing to medical care, Lutheran World Relief continues the work of the church on behalf of so many. Reformation's gift of \$66,846 - comprised of gifts from members and friends and a two-to-one match from our Endowment - was also generously matched by other donors providing gifts to LWR. This made every dollar donated to Reformation create a six-to-one match. LWR featured Reformation's generosity in their ministry blog as a story of inspiring generosity locally and globally!



Pastor Alina Gayeuski, Treasurer Tom Conroy, and Pastor Wayne present Lutheran World Relief Congregational Engagement Manager Emma Wagner with Reformation's "big" check. The more than \$66,000 gift went to support the work of LWR in providing aid to those impacted by the war in Ukraine

Abundant Generosity

In 2022, Reformation donated over \$210,000 in support of our mission and ministry partners locally and globally. Gifts to our Holiday Offering Fund and the interest earned on our Endowment help our benevolence go even further. Thank you, Reformation, for your continued partnership and abundant generosity!



Synod Mission Support

\$61,864

Each year Reformation tithes (10%) of our income to the 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.



Local Support

\$43,395

Contributions made to Reformation using special holiday envelopes - such as Lent, Easter, and Christmas envelopes - help to fund our Holiday Offering Fund and make much of our local support possible. These gifts help us support ministry partners throughout our area.



Global Support

\$106,300

Through monthly collections for ELCA World Hunger, special offerings for Lutheran Disaster Response, and the special offering for Lutheran World Relief, Reformation was able to significantly support the work of the wider church around the world.

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

We have seen many changes throughout the years and throughout the world. Sometimes we've been left yearning for the days when things didn't feel so complicated. Other times, we have seen something new happen and have asked, "Why did this take so long?" The church has been through its own changes as well. Some of these have left us wishing for simpler times while others have us waiting for even more to come about.

But, dear church, God still is unchanging. God's love is still the foundation on which the church was built. While we have seen many changes, both in the world and at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the eternal love of God and the good news that dwells with Christ's death and resurrection continue to provide hope for everyone. This is why our mission remains steadfast, whether that is through our traditional mission work in places near and far or from new ventures and visions that encourage us to think of different ways to reach even more people.

The writer of Hebrews reminds us: "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God" (13:16). That could not be truer in the work we have been doing in each expression of the church. Your gifts continue to benefit the good work of spreading the good news throughout your communities, your synods and the whole church. We are all answering the call to continue to do good work with the help of your support, whether that is through your resources, your time or your talents.

I am grateful for your generous support of each expression of the church. God calls all of us to continue to do the good work, and you continue to answer that call. We also continue to join you in that call and will remain true to looking toward God's unchanging promise. There is still much change and learning that will come before us, but God's steadfast love energizes us for the work God is still doing in the world through this church.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Eaton". The signature is fluid and cursive.

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

“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God”

(Hebrews 13:16).