



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

We began 2023 celebrating the ordination of Pastor Eileen. This ceremony is always so exciting to see a new Pastor go forward and begin her career. It is always nice to have the Bishop visit us. It provided an opportunity to raise up all that we are looking to continue to accomplish as a Congregation.

Okay...maybe a little boasting too!! This was my first time to participate in VBS. Wow!! It is hard to fully appreciate all that Liz, Pastor Eileen, our summer interns and others do with this wonderful opportunity to serve the community. It is quite a "Hot, Hot, Burning Up, Burning Up" program.

We ended the year celebrating Pastor Alina's tenth anniversary of her ordination. We are so blessed that she has been with us during these past 10 years. We are fortunate to have a strong congregation who is willing to support Clergy, Staff and Church Council. That is something that I never take for granted. As I reflect about 2024, we kickoff our Capital Campaign. It will provide us with the opportunity to both repair and build new. We continue to move forward and that is something to really celebrate!

john grantland
COUNCIL PRESIDENT



John Grantland brings his grandchildren up for Communion.



I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. – John 10:10b

Dear Reformation,

What a year! We celebrated milestones big and small, kicked off a major Capital Campaign, and dreamed of what the next chapter in the life of this congregation might look like.

We started the year by thinking a lot about hope, and that hope led us to thinking about abundance! This year you continued to amaze us in your abundant generosity, welcome, and faith.

Thank you for helping us continue to build an abundant life at Reformation this year, as we look forward to all that is to come.

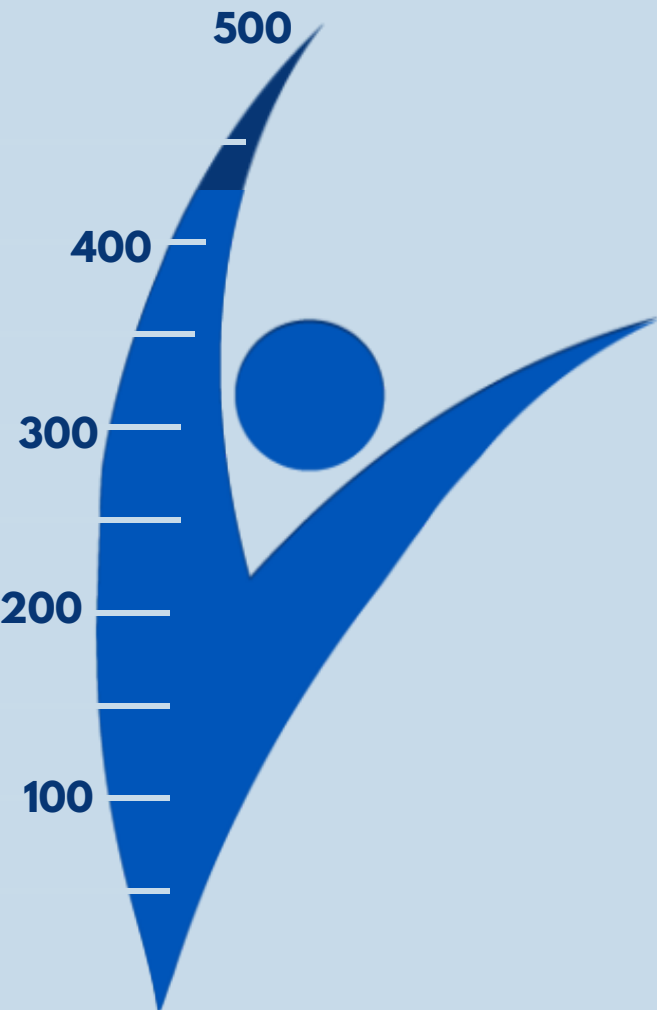
In abundant peace,

pastor alina & pastor eileen



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

CAMPAIGN TRACKER



FUNDING UPDATE*

ESTATE & DESIGNATED FUNDS	\$76,628
GIFTS PLEDGED TO DATE	\$359,304

TOTAL	<u>\$435,932</u>
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GIFTS RECEIVED TO DATE	\$40,411.65
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*Capital Campaign funding data as of December 15, 2023.

Our \$500,000 goal will allow us to maintain and increase our abundant life at Reformation in three key ways!

A new **roof** will continue housing our congregation, two Reformation schools, and various community groups that share our space.

An outdoor **pavilion** will be built for worship, fellowship, outdoor time for our schools, and will be open to the community when available for parties, picnics, and more!

A **reflection garden** will provide a place for congregation or community members to lay ashes to rest in a scatter garden or a biodegradable urn.

Scan the code to learn more or visit
relcmedia.org/lifeabundant.



INVITE ALL PEOPLE



The Bridge family taking part in one of nine baptisms at Reformation.



New members join the congregation through an Affirmation of Baptism.



Members staffing Reformation's table at Delco Pride festival.

This year was full of inviting and welcoming all people! We celebrated 9 baptisms from newborn infants through elementary age children, we welcomed 14 new members, and we proclaimed God's love for all people through word and deed! Here is a glimpse at what our life looked like together this year by numbers:



3

First Communions



4

Weddings



6

Bible Presentations



7

Confirmations



9

Funerals



9

Baptisms



14

New Members

SERVE OUR NEIGHBORS

From cards and clothing sent to immigrants and refugees, to groceries and meals sent to local agencies, to shoes collected to combat homelessness in Philadelphia - this year we took on many opportunities to serve the least of these! Here are what just a few of our projects donated this year for those in need:



532

**Pairs of Underwear & Socks
for National Giving Alliance**



247

**Souper Bowl Food Items
for Media Food Bank**



152

**Pairs of Shoes
for Sanctuary Village**



81

**Lent Care Kits
for various agencies**



52

**Fresh Change Bags
for LIRS**



Children bless clothing bags for LIRS.



Handmade dresses are blessed
for Dress A Girl.



Thanksgiving Food Bags are
delivered to local organizations.

BUILD A LIVING FAITH



This year we built a living faith through our leadership, our worship, and our community together. Our faith was active in 2023 - we worshiped together 122 times this year! We also celebrated milestones like Pastor Eileen's ordination and Pastor Alina's 10th ordination anniversary. We saw new faces in worship and beyond! We welcomed Vicar Paula as our deacon intern, as well as 2 summer interns, 2 livestream interns, and 1 choral scholar. We hosted guest speakers from a variety of organizations to learn more about our neighbors. And most of all, we were the beloved community of God!

GENEROSITY

Reformation's benevolence
in 2023 totaled \$140,340



Local Giving \$27,015



Global Giving \$50,765

including crisis responses for:

Turkey and Syria	\$16,180
Maui	\$6,190
Middle East	\$5,742



Synod Giving \$62,560

Synod *Spotlight*

Reformation's abundant generosity was featured in a video at the 2023 Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly. Scan the code below to view!

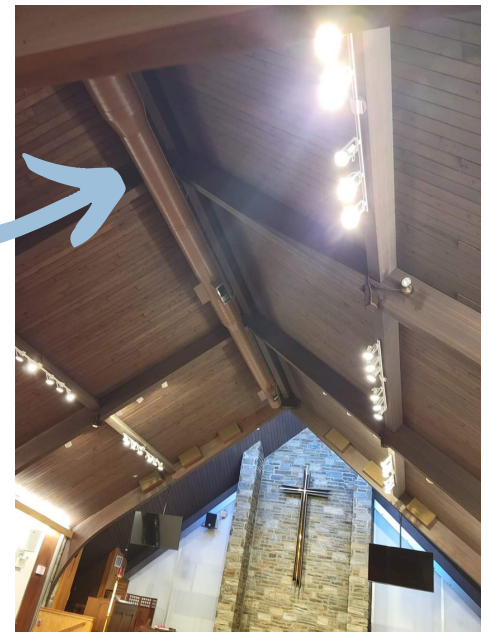


CHILDREN & YOUTH



Children are not just the future of the church – they ARE the church here and now! This year our children and youth participated in a variety of special events in addition to our weekly Education Hour. Some of these included: Tuscarora Retreat, Camp Sunday, Eco Sunday, Easter Egg Hunt, Vacation Bible School, Trunk or Treat, Interfaith Book Trail, Children's Choir, preparing for the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering, and service projects benefiting The Well and Caring for Friends!

A NEW LOOK



Chandeliers in the sanctuary were replaced with track lighting for a bright future.



Dick Hughey led the charge for handrails to be installed on the side of the building, creating a safer entry for many members.



The Prayground got a makeover with new toys, fidgets, and even a play Communion set!



The Women's Connection and Choir rooms got fresh paint and new carpeting.

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

Over the past year we have continued to experience changes in the world around us. Even as our church finds ways to adapt to this changing world, we find hope in the unchanging and always present promise of God's love through Jesus Christ. We change and adapt not to conform to the world but because we believe that the gift of God's Son is for the world, and that our congregations and worshiping communities are places to gather and be sent into the world, where we will tell the story of God's love in word and deed.

The ministries of our congregations, our synods and the churchwide organization provide ways for the church to move beyond the boundaries of structures and geography and to share God's love with people in our neighborhoods, our cities, our country and beyond. We engage in this ministry knowing that our church walks by faith, trusting in God's promise in the gospel, and that we exist by and for the proclamation of this gospel word. In John 15:5, Jesus reminds us, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." We are connected by the promise that we do all through Christ and can do nothing apart from him.

God gives the Holy Spirit, who uses gospel proclamation — in preaching and sacraments, in forgiveness and in healing conversations — to create and sustain this faith. Just as we rely on God to sustain our faith, we rely on each other to sustain the ministries that offer God's love to the world. Through your generosity to each expression

of this church — your congregation, your synod and your churchwide organization — you add to our collective voice proclaiming God's love for all.

I am grateful for your generosity over this last year. My gratitude spreads far beyond your generous financial gifts. You've shared your gifts of time through countless hours of volunteering, serving and accompanying. You've shared the gifts of your voices as we've tried to discover and learn how God is calling us to be the church now and into the future. And, finally, dear church, you have shared the gift of the realness of God's love with the world around you. Be well, dear church, and stand steadfast in the promise of God's love and grace as you take that promise with you into the world.

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

“I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.” —John 15:5