

# Annual Report 2024



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# From the President

As I reflect on the past year at Reformation, I am filled with gratitude for and inspiration by the amazing gifts Reformation has received. I am equally proud of the gifts that Reformation has been able to give, and this is because of you, our faithful generous members and friends. Together we are making a difference in the lives of people. God's love for the world is made known through your financial support for our ministries; VBS for many children, meals and care packages for various groups in need, ongoing support for Caring for Friends, Lutheran Settlement House, Cradles to Crayons, and many more.

We are also proud to be able to serve our members with many programs and activities. Take a look around our church on any given day and you will witness God in action: Pre-School, Stay and Play, Sunday School, Youth Group, Choirs, Senior Lunch Bunch, Support Groups...God has done and continues to do amazing things! Also, we have a strong congregation who support our Clergy, Staff and Church Council. Our amazing, successful Capital Campaign and the completion of our Pavilion will enable us to continue to be part of each other and our community!

I want to personally thank you in advance for your continued generous support of the mission of Reformation for 2025. Thank you for the privilege of serving with you as we strengthen our connections with God, each other, and with the world.

Together in Christ,

*Debbie Conley*

Council President

Debbie Conley and family attend Lutheran Night at the Phillies with members of Reformation.



# From the Pastors

**Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God (1 John 4:7)**

This year we began to think more deeply about what it means to be the Beloved Community! This means that our faith places us in relationship with people near and far, in service and love of neighbor. In 2024 we lived this out in many ways!

We furthered our intentional partnership with Grace Lutheran Church in Broomall and their Wellness Center.

We served our neighbors in active service, in-kind giving, and financial support.

We sent our youth to New Orleans to experience Lutheran community from across the ELCA.

We replaced our roof and built our new pavilion, which will serve our congregation, the 170 students who attend our Reformation school programs, and the more than 12 community groups that use our spaces regularly.

Beloved Community means we are connected through the expansive love of God. We're so proud of how we got to live this out in 2024, and excited for how we will continue to do so in the coming year.

In gratitude,

*Pastor Alina and Pastor Eileen*







# Better Together

“Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common.” - Acts 4:32-33

This year our relationships blossomed! Reformation's partnership with Grace Lutheran, Broomall and their Wellness Center, expanded as we helped renovate their space and continued to grow in relationship. Pastor Kayla and Pastor Alina swapped pulpits, Pastor Kayla helped lead a connection group, and our congregations supported one another in various ministry opportunities. We look forward to a new year of continuing in faith alongside Grace. Together, we can do far more than we could do alone!



# Invite All People

13		New Members
11		Baptisms
11		Funerals
5		First Communion
4		Confirmations
4		Bible Presentations
1		Wedding



Reformation sponsors and attends Delco Pride Festival.



Pastor Alina speaks at an event honoring victims and survivors of domestic violence.



Youth gathering participants celebrate diversity and inclusion in New Orleans.



# Serve Our Neighbors



This year we continued to serve our neighbors near and far! Some highlights include:

- Vicar Paula and members helped refresh the garden spaces at Lutheran Settlement house. We also filled 58 comfort kits for children and teenagers in their shelter.
- We provided bags of food and grocery gift cards to Second Time Around Parents and Migrant Ministries.
- We shared Christmas gifts with the Domestic Abuse Project of Delaware County, Migrant Ministries, and KenCrest.
- Our Sunday School and Confirmation students packed 120 meals for the homebound through Caring for Friends.
- We collected 151 pantry items for Chester Eastside.

In addition to in-kind giving, we also practiced financial generosity, outlined below:

## 2024 Generosity

Global  
\$30,894

Local  
\$43,092

Synod  
\$56,800

Total  
**\$130,786**

# Build A Living Faith



Vicar Paula earned her Master of Arts in Ministerial Leadership and Pastor Alina earned her Doctor of Ministry this year.



Seminarian Nicole Young joined us for worship to accept the Reinhard Scholarship.



Pastor Eileen and members Linda and Terri attend Lutheran Day in Harrisburg with Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in PA.



Reformation hosted and sponsored our second gun violence vigil with CeaseFirePA.

This year, we carried out our mission to build a living faith! Through community partnerships we worked for justice and advocacy. We took the command to love one another beyond Sunday morning by caring for the marginalized in word and deed. We connected with siblings of different traditions and backgrounds. Thanks for helping us live our faith inside and outside of the church, Reformation!





# Children

The highlight of our year for children and youth was the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans! 6 of our youth and 3 adult leaders got to join 15,000+ Lutherans from across the ELCA for five days of worship, learning, and service. The theme of the Gathering was "Created to Be," teaching us many of the wonderful things that God created us to be: brave, authentic, free, disruptive, and disciples. Our youth remain forever impacted by this wonderful experience and give thanks to all of YOU for supporting them!

Our children and youth also engaged with their faith this year through weekly and monthly education programs, retreats, Vacation Bible School, and group activities like Trunk or Treat and the Easter Egg Hunt. Many thanks to all our adult leaders who have chaperoned, taught, and mentored our youngest disciples this year.

# and Youth



# Capital Campaign



The momentum of our Capital Campaign has exceeded our expectations! As of December 15, 2024, pledges to the Campaign total 89% of our overall goal. Gifts received to date total 70% of our goal.

We are so grateful to our congregation and community for the support and enthusiasm you have poured into these endeavors! We are thrilled to have fully replaced our entire roof this year, which was the largest goal of the Campaign. We also built the pavilion, and look ahead to the construction of the memorial garden in the near future.

Special gratitude is owed to Dave Chorney, Dick Hughey, and Vince Walsh for their supervision and contributions to these projects.



# Campaign Snapshots



The largest component of the Campaign, a new roof, was completed this year.



The pavilion crew, pastors, and Campaign leadership in the new pavilion before shingles are added.



To complement the Campaign, Eagle Scout projects like the fire pit have enhanced our property.

# A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

All around us, we see signs of God's love and goodness. A person who has stepped away from church for many years steps back into a congregation, feeling the call of the Holy Spirit. Young adults feeling isolated in a digital-first world start gathering in person in a small group, enjoying the warmth of a hug and a new friend asking about their week. A mother plants a garden, and it yields fruits and vegetables, giving her nutritious food for her kids and extra produce to sell at the local market. Everywhere we look, we see signs of Christ's love. In Psalm 93, we read: "More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters, more majestic than the waves of the sea, majestic on high is the Lord! Your decrees are very sure; holiness befits your house, O Lord, forevermore" (4-5).

God's love is a majestic thing, and it moves us to share it in word and deed. The ministries of our congregations, our synods and the ELCA churchwide organization are all working together to share God's love with people in our neighborhoods, across our country and around the world.

I am so grateful for you, dear church. Your generosity to each of these three expressions of the church — your congregation, your synod and the churchwide organization — has bolstered the church's ability to share the message of God's love to people who are longing for it. Through your

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“More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters, more majestic than the waves of the sea, majestic on high is the Lord! Your decrees are very sure; holiness befits your house, O Lord, forevermore.”

—Psalm 93:4-5

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financial resources, your time volunteering and accompanying others, and your voices, you've helped carry this message of God's majestic love. Thank you, dear church. As we look ahead to the coming year, I encourage you to stand steadfast in God's promises, sure of God's love and goodness.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Eaton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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