

ELCA500 Reformation anniversary
ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton's 2017 public witness calendar of events

January 23–25, 2017: Austin, Texas
Texas Tri-Synodical Theological Leadership Conference
Texas Christian University

In honor of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, Bishop Eaton and The Lutheran World Federation General Secretary Martin Junge served as guest speakers at "[Refresh '17](#)." The event offered leaders an understanding of how the historic event in 1517 affects the ongoing processes of reformation in the church and equips leaders to further their work in the church and society.

February 2, 2017: Decorah, Iowa
500th Anniversary of the Reformation Convocation
Luther College

During Luther College's opening to the spring semester, Bishop Eaton [shared reflections](#) on the church's ongoing call to reformation and the role of Lutheran higher education in the call to service for the sake of the world. She also participated in a rite of blessing for a tree recently planted on campus as part of the Luthergarten project, a Reformation commemoration initiative that links Luther College to Wittenberg, Germany, by dedicating newly planted trees in both locations.

March 2, 2017: Chicago, Illinois
Lutheran-Catholic joint observance of 500th anniversary of the Reformation
The Lutheran Center

Bishop Eaton participated in the leadership of the [Service of Common Prayer](#) hosted by the ELCA Conference of Bishops' Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Committee and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Affairs Committee.

March 26, 2017: Cleveland, Ohio
20th anniversary of full communion of Formula Agreement Churches
United Church of Christ Center

In 2017, the ELCA [celebrates 20 years of full communion partnership](#) with three Reformed churches in the U.S.: the Presbyterian Church USA, the Reformed Church in America, and the United Church of Christ. This anniversary was marked by a worship service at the United Church of Christ offices in Cleveland attended by the heads of communion, ecumenical officers, ministry staff, local judicatory leaders and members of these four churches. Bishop Eaton preached.

April 24-25, 2017: Blaine, Washington
Northwest Washington Synod Spring Convocation

In her time with theologians from the Northwest Washington Synod, Bishop Eaton addressed topics including the ELCA's ecumenical relationships and the significance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation as the first centennial that Lutherans and Roman Catholics have commemorated together.

May 1-4, 2017: Minneapolis, Minnesota
National Workshop on Christian Unity

During this [annual event](#), Bishop Eaton participated in the opening worship service procession along with local ELCA synod bishops. She also joined Bishop Denis Madden, Catholic co-chair of the Lutheran-Catholic dialogue, in leading a plenary, "After 500 Years: Catholics & Lutherans 'On the Way' Together," which explored the fruits of 50 years of Lutheran-Catholic dialogue.

May 5-18, 2017: Windhoek, Namibia, Africa

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Twelfth Assembly

Bishop Eaton, along with the ELCA delegation and Lutherans from around the world, participated in the LWF's Twelfth Assembly and the [global commemoration](#) of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

May 25, 2017: Wittenberg, Germany

Kirchentag 500th anniversary of the Reformation commemoration

The bi-annual [Kirchentag](#) invites discussion and participation in politics, science, art, business and religion. This year it centered on the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and, in Wittenberg, Bishop Eaton hosted a Bible study and participated in a luncheon for ELCA visitors and guests from around the world.

June 4, 2017: Dallas, Texas

Churches Uniting in Christ

Temple of Faith Chapel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

The ELCA's work toward the reconciliation of church divisions includes [Churches Uniting in Christ](#), an ecumenical covenant relationship of 11 Protestant churches of various streams of the Reformation. Bishop Eaton processed and participated in a historic and celebratory Pentecost communion service that lifted up the churches' mutual recognition of ministries and commitment to racial justice and reconciliation.

July 2, 2017: Rosemont, Illinois

Islamic Society of North American (ISNA) Convention

As part of our longstanding partnership, [Bishop Eaton addressed](#) the [annual convention](#) of the Islamic Society of North America. Together with three ELCA synod bishops, and various pastors, scholars and inter-religious leaders, she will participate in the annual ISNA interfaith unity banquet, lifting up the significance of the 500th anniversary for ELCA-Muslim relations and our hope for deeper partnerships as part of our collaboration for the common good. Recognizing her leadership in Lutheran-Muslim relations, as well as that of bishops, pastors, and leaders across the church, ISNA bestowed upon Bishop Eaton the highest honor by naming her the 2017 recipient of their interfaith unity award.

July 13, 2017: Minneapolis, Minnesota

Women of the ELCA Tenth Triennial Convention

As a speaker for the [Women of the ELCA Triennial](#), Bishop Eaton preached in the afternoon worship service and commissioned the new Women of the ELCA officers. While there, she also hosted a "meet and greet," chatting with Triennial participants about a number of topics, including the Reformation anniversary.

July 20, 2017: Box Elder, Montana

American Indian Alaska Native Lutheran Association Tri Annual Gathering

[The American Indian Alaska Native Lutheran Association](#) gathered under the theme "Celebrating 500 Years of God's Grace in Action." During the event, Bishop Eaton preached on "Where do we go from here?" and led a discussion about the next steps for our communities and synods in honoring the intent of the repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery.

July 22-25, 2017: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

African Descent Lutheran Association Biennial Assembly

On the occasion of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, the [African Descent Lutheran Association](#) Biennial Assembly convened under the theme "Like a mighty stream, let justice roll." [This year's event](#) was held in conjunction with the Union for Black Episcopalians. Bishop Eaton and Bishop Michael Curry, presiding bishop of The Episcopal Church, were present to affirm our churches' respective commitments to these bodies and their leaders, to combating racism, supporting racial justice and reconciliation, and to affirm this work together as part of our full communion partnership.

August 7–10, 2017: Atlanta, Georgia

ELCA Rostered Ministers Gathering

The [Rostered Ministers Gathering](#) is the ELCA's first event dedicated to assembling ELCA rostered ministers for worship, education and fellowship. While at the event, Bishop Eaton participated in anniversary-related activities, including a "Beer and Hymns" benefit concert and joined participants in a workshop about Reformation anniversary activities at the congregational and synodical levels.

September 19, 2017: Moorhead, Minnesota

2017 Faith, Reason and World Affairs Symposium

Concordia College

As part of Concordia's Reformation anniversary observance, "[Reformation: Transforming the World One Door at a Time](#)," Bishop Eaton will be a guest speaker examining the lessons learned from the Reformation while debating how to best reform the current world. She also will participate in a Q&A with students in a German HoffBrauhaus theme.

September 20-21, 2017: Minneapolis, Minnesota

Christensen Convocation

Augsburg College

As part of Augsburg College's commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, Bishop Eaton will offer the 2017 [Christiansen Symposium Lecture](#) sponsored by the Christiansen Center for Vocation. Her lecture will focus on how "interfaith friendships enrich learning" in the context of Lutheran identity and the ongoing Reformation of the 21st century. This was one of the five lessons of Bernhard Christiansen, who was president of the college from 1938-1962.

September 23, 2017: Charlotte, North Carolina

North Carolina and South Carolina synods joint Reformation anniversary capstone worship

Covenant Presbyterian Church

Bishop Eaton will preach during the Reformation anniversary commemoration [joint capstone worship](#) for the North Carolina and South Carolina synods.

October 12, 2017: San Antonio, Texas

Retired Bishops and Spouses Retreat

During her time with ELCA retired bishops and their spouses, Bishop Eaton will present on the significance of the dialogue and relationship between Lutherans and Catholics during the year of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

October 17, 2017: Chicago, Illinois

the Chicago Father Paul Wattson Lecture

Catholic Theological Union

Bishop Eaton will present the Chicago Father Paul Wattson Lecture at [Catholic Theological Union](#), lifting up the importance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and our ongoing quest together as Lutherans and Catholics for unity in Christ. This year's special lecture is organized by the [Association of Chicago Theological Schools](#), a consortium of eleven schools including the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.

October 27-28, 2017: Minneapolis, Minnesota

500th Anniversary of the Reformation Festival

Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis;

Joining Central Lutheran for their [Reformation festival](#), Bishop Eaton will attend a hymn festival on Friday and will preach during the Saturday afternoon service.

October 29, 2017: Washington, D.C.

Reformation Sunday service

National Cathedral

In honor of Reformation Sunday in the year of the 500th anniversary, Bishop Eaton will preach at the [Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod](#)'s annual Reformation Sunday worship service at the [Washington National Cathedral](#).

October 31, 2017: Washington, D.C.

Looking Back and Called Forward: ELCA500

Lutheran Church of the Reformation, Capitol Hill

Bishop Eaton will co-host the ELCA's public witness [commemoration event](#) honoring the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Bishop Eaton will be joined by co-hosts Indiana-Kentucky Synod Bishop Bill Gafkjen, ELCA Vice President Bill Horne and Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod Bishop Richard Graham for an event that includes speakers and a service. The event will be available online via livestream for all to watch.

November 6-8, 2017: Chicago, Illinois

Inter-Religious Task Force

Bishop Eaton will meet with the ELCA's Inter-Religious Task Force, which she appointed in summer 2016, as it prepares the first draft of an inter-religious policy statement for consultation and feedback from members and leaders across the church. Following revisions based on this input, the final statement is expected to come before the 2019 Churchwide Assembly for consideration and possible action.

December 2-8, 2017: Geneva, Switzerland

The Lutheran World Federation Executive Committee Meeting

Following the 12th Assembly of The Lutheran World Federation in Windhoek, Namibia, Bishop Eaton was elected to serve as the vice president for North America on the Executive Committee, succeeding Bishop Susan Johnson of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. This first meeting of the new [Executive Committee](#) will explore, among other agenda items, how the global Lutheran communion will continue to bear witness to Christ as part of the ongoing Reformation as we move beyond this 500th anniversary year.

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In addition to this map, Bishop Eaton's calendar also includes events that highlight the Reformation anniversary but are not listed, as they are not public events.