

Reformation remains one of the most influential events that shaped modern art in Pomerania. Officially introduced in the Duchy of Pomerania in 1534, preceded by several years of intensive activity of the reformers, it had an enormous impact on the way local churches were furnished, with pieces that expressed new theological beliefs, employing means of expression characteristic for Protestant art, as well as new types of liturgical vessels. Simultaneously, the church art in Pomerania consciously pursued medieval themes, preserving much of the earlier liturgical tradition.

In both the Lutheran and Catholic churches, art was an important medium for religious content, and thus they used works of art for proselytising – as faithful illustrations of the Old and New Testaments. In addition, they were also used to familiarise the faithful with complex theological concepts in a simplified manner. In many cases, artists also went with typology, juxtaposing scenes from the Old and New Testaments.