



A New Year of Grace

Rev. Dr. Ralen M. Robinson

“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”

-Isaiah 43:18-19 NIV

As we step into 2026, I and I’m sure a lot of us do so with hearts full of gratitude. Looking back over the past year, I can see God’s fingerprints everywhere pressing gently on our lives with love, leaving holy imprints through lessons we didn’t ask for but somehow needed, and through the quiet nudges of the Spirit swirling around us.

This past year has been marked by God’s presence in ways both beautifully blaring obvious and in small sways subtle. It is seen in a myriad of ways. It is found in our worship, in the meals shared around your tables, in the joy of new members joining our family of faith, and in the tearful goodbyes as beloved saints completed their journey and entered the fullness of God’s promises.

We’ve shared moments of courage, compassion, generosity, laughter, forgiveness, and steady faithful moments that carried us through seasons of joy and seasons of challenge. *“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases” (Lamentations 3:22)*, and that faithfulness continues to light our path ahead. As we enter this new year, may we continue leaning into a spirit of renewal. Renewal is not something we manufacture on our own it is something God breathes into us: quietly, patiently, steadily, and often when we least expect it. *“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you” (Ezekiel 36:26)*. Renewal comes through the rhythms of life that anchor us: worship, community, service, and caring for one another. It comes through small acts of trust and the gentle courage to try again, and again.

As we begin this new year, I invite you to embrace some simple spiritual practices to place:

- **Prayer:** A few honest words each day of gratitude, confession, hope offered to a God who listens.
- **Service:** Look for one person each week you can bless with kindness or encouragement.
- **Sabbath:** Give yourself permission to rest, to breathe deeply, and to remember you are not defined by productivity.
- **Community:** Show up, even when it’s easier not to. We need one another, and God meets us when we gather.

May 2026 be a year when we notice God’s grace not only in the big moments but in the small ones, in the quiet mornings, shared meals, healed relationships, new friendships, and the steady presence of the Spirit guiding us. May we be renewed in Spirit, rooted in grace, and open to all that God will do in this new year.

upcoming events

Notable Church Events

- December 24 Youth Prelude 4:55pm
Christmas Eve Service (Contemporary) 5:00pm
Bell Choir Prelude 6:50pm
Christmas Eve Service (Traditional) 7:00pm
- December 28 Single Service Lessons & Carols 10:00am
- January 7 6:30 pm Wednesday's in the Word
January 10/11 Youth Lock-in 8pm-8am
January 14 6:30 pm Wednesday's in the Word
January 17 Youth Bowling Event 7:30-9:30pm
January 21 6:30 pm Wednesday's in the Word
January 25 10:00 am Annual Meeting
January 28 6:30 pm Wednesday's in the Word



With sincere gratitude and appreciation for everyone who lent a hand and helped make 2025 happen.

Let's see what we can accomplish in 2026!



Growing in Faith & Fellowship



Thank you for your support of the Angel Tree this year. We were blessed with many very needed items to take to the Operation Holiday site so that all those in need may have access to gifts and needed items. The joy and relief you provide through the Angel Tree are appreciated.

Food Cart



As the Wichita and area communities continue to suffer from food anxiety, we hold our grocery cart in the Narthex more precious for the sustenance that you continuously contribute and that we then deliver to the United Methodist Urban Ministry Food Pantry. **In January**, let's load the cart up with **canned foods**. Some examples: canned fruits, vegetables, meats, beans, soups—anything that can help a family without food find hope in the cans we provide. Reformation is eternally grateful for your contributions. And so are those needing our help.

Ladies Night Out



Mark your calendars for Monday, **January 12th at 6:30 p.m.** We will be dining at Oak & Pie, Join us for a fun evening of fellowship and good food!

Stephen Ministry: The Courage to Receive Care



In John 15:12 (NRSV) Jesus says, *“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”* Loving and caring for one another is not just Pastor Ralen's job—it's something Jesus calls us all to do. Stephen Ministers are people with gifts for caring putting those gifts to use in an organized way, bringing Jesus' love and care to those who need it.

Care Receiver Comments:

- I thank God every day for my Stephen Minister. I don't know how I could have made it through this past year without her.
- Before I had a Stephen Minister, I struggled with whether I even believed in God. Now I have seen God's love face-to-face through my Stephen Minister. It is life-changing!
- As a man, I found it difficult and awkward to ask for help. But I'm glad I did. I probably could have made it alone, but it sure was a lot easier having a Stephen Minister to talk to.

To find out how Stephen Ministry might help you, for a short or long while, please contact the church office.

Thank you for your continuing support of Stephen Ministry.



Looking for Ways to Get Involved

Reformation offers a variety of ministries dedicated to sharing God's Word and serving our community. Transitioning into the new year provides a meaningful opportunity to reflect on your spiritual gifts and how you might use them in service to others. Perhaps there's a ministry that's the perfect fit for you! We invite you to take time to consider getting involved.

Below, you'll find a list of our boards and ministries where your time and talents can make a difference.

Church Council our leadership team

Ministry Boards that meet regularly to serve our congregation:

- Worship Board** guides weekly and special worship services
- In-Reach Board** oversees our internal congregational needs
- Outreach Board** oversees our social media presence and other external involvement in our community
- Fellowship Board** coordinates coffee hour between services and other special events
- Learning Board** oversees learning for all ages
- Property Board** Sunday School, Confirmation, Youth Group & Adult Learning
- Finance Board** oversees the upkeep of our building and property
- Service Board** oversees the stewardship of our financial resources
- Service Board** coordinates activities that make a difference in our community

Other ministries that serve our congregation:

- Homebound Communion** deliver communion once a month to the homebound
- Stephen Ministry** trained Christian caregivers who provide an opportunity for you to talk to someone in confidence
- B.T.O.L** for anyone over 55 to socialize and learn from guest speakers about things in our community
- Dorcas Circle** monthly discussion and learning about the Bible
- Rebecca Circle** monthly guided study of the books of the Bible
- Blanket Makers** weekly sewing, quilting and fellowship opportunity
- RISE band** weekly offering of musical gifts to lead our RISE service
- Bell Choir** monthly offering of musical gifts during our traditional service
- Vocal Choir** monthly offering of musical gifts during our traditional service

Interested in becoming a member, or know someone who is?



If you want more information about membership at Reformation, contact Rev. Ralen Robinson at info@refluthks.org

December 2025 Council Recap

Annual Meeting scheduled —January 25, 2026

Thank you to the Fellowship Board for a wonderful Christmas Luncheon and to the Learning Board for their No Fuss Christmas Program.

Over the past couple of months Council did an in depth review of our 2025 financial activity and began preparing our 2026 Budget. At our last meeting we finalized our 2026 Budget and will present it to you in January. Based upon the trends we witnessed in 2025 this next year will need to be lean and tight. We have continued to manage our expenses well and are keeping as close to budget as possible. Thanks to all of your support we have managed a income rebound and are nearing our conservatively developed budget. We look forward to continuing to carry out the mission of Reformation Lutheran Church next year.

»»»»»»»»»» ANNUAL Committee REPORTS ««««««««««

It's getting to be that time.
Annual Reports are due!
If you are a board chairperson, please get your annual report done and transmitted digitally to the office **asap**.

info@refluthks.org

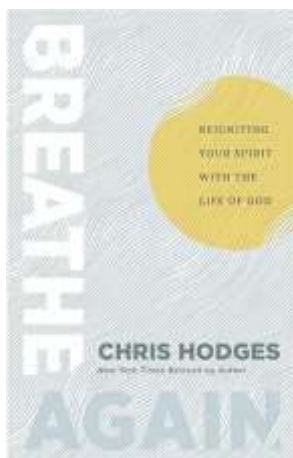
Thank you in advance!



In December we celebrated with a dinner for Church Council Leaders, new and “retiring”

Missing from the picture: Tom McFarlane, Clement Mtwali and Sean Reily

Book Recommendation



As we turn the page into a new year, I invite you to *reignite your faith* with a book that truly speaks to the heart. Our January read is *Breathe Again* by Chris Hodges, a down-to-earth, hometown, grassroots pastor who writes with honesty, warmth, and deep compassion. This book offers practical wisdom and real-life stories that help us slow down, breathe deeply, and pay attention to the ways God is moving in our everyday lives. It's gentle, hopeful, and a beautiful companion as we step into a new year together, rooted, refreshed, and ready for whatever God has in store for us.



Prayer Ministry at Reformation Lutheran Church

At Reformation, we believe in the power of prayer and the comfort of lifting one another before God. Our congregation offers two ways to share prayer needs:

Monthly Prayer List

This list is updated regularly and shared with the congregation. It's a place for ongoing or long-term concerns. To add a name or ensure a prayer continues beyond one month, please contact the church office or Pastor Ralen.

Prayer Circle

Our Prayer Circle is a dedicated group of people committed to praying faithfully for those in need. Requests may be for yourself, a loved one, or a friend, whether it involves illness, surgery, grief, or any personal hardship. Updates and prayer requests are shared with the congregation through Mailchimp. We also celebrate answered prayers, giving thanks and praise to God together.

Please remember in your prayers:

Larry Allbritten	Sally Livingston
Marilyn Allbritten	Tom McFarlane
Annette Carson	Marlen McIntosh
Sheila Carlson	Shirley Metz
Raymond Drake	Robert Pfeiffer
Kourtney Franke	Marcia Werts
Waldo Gerards	Ed Wilks
Kenn Woodard	Maribel

Additional prayer requests may be written in the book at the back of the sanctuary before each worship service.

Christ in Your Home New Edition



Pick up the latest edition in the narthex. A home devotional resource that encourages readers to live out their faith daily. Each reflective reading is accompanied by a daily scripture reference and prayer for the day.

Take a copy home with you!

Meegan Jowdy	1-Jan
Brad Martin	1-Jan
Richard Babinger	2-Jan
Susayn Brandes	2-Jan
Cody Farlow	2-Jan
Waldo Gerards	2-Jan
Lisa Gustin	4-Jan
Tyler McDiffett	4-Jan
Ralen Robinson	4-Jan
James Shackelford	4-Jan
Melissa Smith	4-Jan
Elizabeth Weaver	4-Jan
Jarrett Steward	5-Jan
Eli Kuttler	7-Jan
Brad Long	7-Jan
David Stoffregen	7-Jan
Lena McFarlane	8-Jan
Brigdon Stupka	8-Jan
Chelsea Hoyer	9-Jan
John Wetta	13-Jan
Erica Hicks	16-Jan
Sandy Muse	18-Jan
Greyson Jowdy	20-Jan
Ruth Ann Koepsel	20-Jan
Landon Pippitt	22-Jan
Robert Weaver	22-Jan
Richard Hoyer	23-Jan
Doris Moden	23-Jan
Carol Weaver	23-Jan
Gretchen Holthaus	27-Jan
Nathan Johnson	28-Jan
Nicholas Wetta	29-Jan




Reformation Youth Happenings

We're excited to see and share what the youth are doing. This is their information space!


Youth Group
Wednesday's
6:00-7:30 pm



January 7th
January 21st

 January
10th/11th
Youth Lock-In 8pm - 8am
Joint event with Christ Lutheran
Bring a Friend with you!!

January 17th
Bowlero
Northridge
7:30-9:30 pm



This year, our youth have had a truly fabulous and exciting year! From excelling in sports, stepping into the limelight and shining on the stage, to growing academically, being inducted into national honor societies, and receiving special awards, we are so proud of all they have accomplished.

If you would like to help us showcase and celebrate your amazing young people, we honor youth achievements monthly. Please email our Youth Director, Katelyn Newell or Pastor Rev. Ralen

Let's celebrate the joy, talent, and dedication of our youth this Christmas season.

Check out the bulletin board in Church to see the latest newsletter from Micah about his year with YAGM. He would love to hear from his Reformation friends while on his YAGM Mission Trip! If you'd like to send him a letter or a card, send it to:



If you want to send a package, please talk to Ken or Marcia. Thanks!