

February 2026  
Reformation  
Lutheran Church



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

## Because God First Loved Us

Rev. Dr. Ralen M. Robinson

1 Corinthians 16:14: **“Let all that you do be done in love.”**

February often invites us to think about love, cards, chocolates, hearts, and flowers. Store aisles are filled with red and pink, chocolate is shaped into hearts, and reminders of Valentine’s Day seem to meet us everywhere we turn. These gestures can be sweet and meaningful, but they also point us toward a deeper question: *What kind of love truly sustains us?*

At the heart of our faith is a love far greater than any card or gift could express. Its more sentimental and meaningful than any words can formulate. God’s love is steady and faithful, present in every season of life. It is a love that does not fade when circumstances change or when we fall short. God’s love follows us through every season of life. God’s love meets us in our joys and celebrations, but also in our grief, our doubts, and our weariness. Scripture reminds us that we love because God first loved us, and that love never lets us go. Before we ever reach out in care, before we ever show compassion or offer forgiveness, God’s love has already been poured out, steadfast, patient, and endlessly generous.

1 John 4:19: **“We love because he first loved us.”**

Those can be sweet reminders, but the love we are called to remember as the church runs deeper and lasts longer than any single day on the calendar. That love is not abstract. It takes shape in community. It is lived out in prayers spoken aloud and silently held. It shows up in meals shared, hands held, tears shed, laughter echoed, and faith practiced together over time. God’s love becomes visible in the ordinary moments of church life, moments that quietly shape us and remind us that we are not alone.

As your pastor, I want you to know how deeply grateful I am for each and every one of you. I carry a genuine love for this congregation, not because we are perfect, but because we are real. Because you show up for one another. Because you keep trusting God even when the path feels uncertain. Because you continue to hope, serve, and believe that God is still at work among us.

My love for you is rooted in God’s love for all of us, a love that binds us together across generations, geography, stories, and seasons of life. It is a love that calls us to care for one another, to listen more deeply, to extend grace freely, and to reflect Christ’s compassion beyond our church walls.

As we move through February, my prayer is that you would be reminded, again and again, that you are deeply loved. Loved by God. Loved by this community. And invited to share that love with a world that so desperately needs it in this barren winter season.

# upcoming events

## Notable Church Events

Tuesday's in February	9:00 a.m. Blanket Makers
Tuesday's in February	5:30 p.m. Bell Choir Practice
Tuesday's in February	7:00 p.m. Choir Practice
February 4	6:30 p.m. Wednesday's in the Word
February 5	6:00 p.m. Worship Board Meeting
February 8	9:45 a.m. Fellowship Board Meeting
February 9	Noon BTOL - Luncheon and Activities to support Morningstar Memory Care
February 9	6:30 p.m. Ladies Night Out
February 11	10:30 a.m. InReach Board Meeting
February 15	5:30 p.m. Valentine's Night Out at Ref Bistro
February 18	Noon Ash Wednesday Service
February 18	1:00 p.m. Dorcas Circle
February 18	7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service
February 23	11:00 a.m. Assistance League

## Valentines Dinner Night Out at the Ref Bistro

**Sunday February 15th, 5:30 p.m.**

“authentic” Italian Meal served by our Youth  
Only \$10 per person

Childcare available  
Only \$8 per child – Pizza included



Reservations required by **Feb. 8th**

## Ladies Night Out



Mark your calendars for Monday, **February 9th at 6:30 p.m.** We will be dining at one of the newest restaurants in Wichita, Newk's Eatery, Join us for a fun evening of fellowship and good food!  
RSVP, by **February 8th**

# February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 8:30am RISE Worship 10:00 am ANNUAL MEETING 11:00am Traditional Worship	<b>2</b> Church Office Open 9am-Noon 11:00 am Assistance League 7:00pm Back to Basics	<b>3</b> Church Office Open 9am-Noon 9:00am Blanket Makers 9:00am Pastor Office Hours 5:30pm Bell Choir Practice 7:00pm Reformation Singers	<b>4</b> Church Office Open 9am-Noon 10:00am Pastor Office Hours 6:00pm Youth Group 6:30pm Weds. In The Word	<b>5</b> Church Office Closed 6:00pm Worship Board	<b>6</b> Church Office Closed	<b>7</b> Church Office Closed
<b>8</b> 8:30am RISE Worship 9:45am Learning Hour 11:00am Traditional Worship	<b>9</b> Church Office Open 9am-Noon 12:00pm BTOL 6:30pm Ladies Night Out 7:00pm Back to Basics	<b>10</b> Church Office Open 9am-Noon 9:00am Blanket Makers 9:00am Pastor Office Hours 5:30pm Bell Choir Practice 7:00pm Reformation Singers	<b>11</b> Church Office Open 9am-Noon 10:00am Pastor Office Hours 10:30am In Reach	<b>12</b> Church Office Closed 10:00am Rebecca Circle	<b>13</b> Church Office Closed	<b>14</b> Church Office Closed
<b>15</b> <i>RefLife Deadline</i> 8:30am RISE Worship 9:45am Learning Hour 11:00am Traditional Worship 5:30pm <del>Ref</del> Bistro Valentine's Dinner	<b>16</b> Church Office Open 9am-Noon 7:00pm Back to Basics	<b>17</b> Church Office Open 9am-Noon 9:00am Blanket Makers 9:00am Pastor Office Hours 5:30pm Bell Choir Practice 7:00pm Church Council Singers	<b>18</b> Church Office Open 9am-Noon 12:00pm Ash Wednesday Service, Lunch after 1:00pm Dorcas Circle 6:00pm Youth Group 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service	<b>19</b> Church Office Closed	<b>20</b> Church Office Closed	<b>21</b> Church Office Closed
<b>22</b> 8:30am RISE Worship Casen's Baptism 9:45am Learning Hour 11:00am Traditional Worship	<b>23</b> Church Office Open 9am-Noon 11:00am Assistance League 7:00pm Back to Basics	<b>24</b> Church Office Open 9am-Noon 9:00am Blanket Makers 9:00am Pastor Office Hours 5:30pm Bell Choir Practice 7:00pm Reformation Singers	<b>25</b> Church Office Open 9am-Noon 10:00am Pastor Office Hours	<b>26</b> Church Office Closed 10:00am - 6:00pm Special Sales Tax - Early Voting	<b>27</b> Church Office Closed 10:00am - 6:00pm Special Sales Tax - Early Voting	<b>28</b> Church Office Closed 9:00am - 1:00pm Special Sales Tax - Early Voting

## It's time to get to know another active group at Reformation, our Blanket Makers.



First a little bit of history, through time and research (reading old annual reports) we discovered that Blanket Makers got it start 35 years ago this January [1991]. Initially it was a project day for the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church back in 1990. That first day yielded 9 quilts for Lutheran World Relief. The next year it became a regularly meeting group, getting

together twice a month.

The group used to do a lot of quilting by hand, in 1991 they donated a queen size quilt to the Lutheran Social Services auction, it raised \$625. This threw down the challenge flag, the next year the groups quilt went for \$920! Jolene shared a story about the time one quilt was worked on for about half a day by each person in the group for a month! These days they are using machines to do the work which has increased the number of quilts they can make significantly.

Blanket Makers started and continues to be a service group and has evolved into a social group as well. They assemble weekly for about three hours to sew/tie quilts and blankets that are given to those in need. In the past they've also made lap robes. Their blankets are distributed to several community groups and organizations as well as church members. In 2025 they completed about 50 blankets. They're also a social group, "coffee" breaking each session for a time of information sharing and socializing. Believe it or not, you do not have to know how to sew to join in (we currently have 2 that do not sew).

New members are welcome at any time!



## **Growing in Faith & Fellowship**



### **Food Cart**

February is the month of love. Red hearts and Valentines are everywhere we look. This month, give foods from the heart to Open Door Food Pantry. And thank each of you for you gifts that feed others.

### **Community Outreach**

We are mourning the loss of St. Paul's for many reasons, one of them being our long-time service of preparing and serving food to the homeless in the downtown area of Wichita. Thanks to Lynette Wetta and Susan Bachman we are searching for a new place in downtown Wichita to cook and to serve. In the meantime, we are serving one Saturday a month at the MAC or now called Second Light. Since their kitchen is not big enough for our cooking, we cook at our church and deliver and serve at Second Light. We typically cook and serve on the third Saturday of the month. Watch and listen for opportunities to get involved.

### **Collecting Clothing for the Homeless**

Boxes remain outside the office window for your donations of items of clothing for the homeless. The items may be gently used or new. We make the items donated available at the community breakfast. We thank you for your generosity in providing much needed clothing for men and women.

### **Collecting for Family Promise**

While we are not providing meals and sleeping services right now for Family Promise, we continue to be part of the overall program by providing needed home-settling items that you donate. You will find a container on the floor next to the Food Cart for any items you contribute. Think about what you would need as you settle in to a home after not having a home for a period of time. Any items you may be downsizing, such as sheets, towels, bedspreads, kitchen ware, etc., are welcome. We deliver the items you donate to Family Promise headquarters in downtown Wichita. Thank you for thinking of this incredible service opportunity.



### **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](mailto:info@refluthks.org)



## 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  
Sunday School, Confirmation, Youth Group & Adult Learning
- Property Board** oversees the upkeep of our building and property
- Finance 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



Notice of Service Changes due to weather will be circulated thru an Eblast, posted on our Facebook page and sent to KSN News to be included in their Closings & Delays information.

## January 2026 Council Recap

I stand once again in amazement at how well this congregation meets our needs each year. While we were a little short (just under \$300) to our income, management of our expenses has been good and we were able to close out the financial year by meeting our needs.

We've had some of our newer members stepped up and joined council!  
Welcome to the four new council members this year.

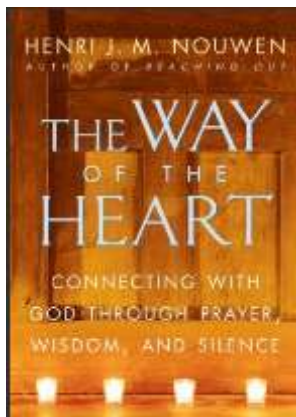
Thank you to all of the congregation members that have participated on boards, served as teachers or leaders, volunteered for an event, donated items, or attended an event to support a cause. You should all be celebrated!

We will be scheduling an indoor property work day soon. If you are interested in helping out please touch base with a member of the team.

This month we begin the year by looking forward as we carry out the mission of Reformation Lutheran Church.

### February Book Recommendation:

The Way of the Heart:  
The Spirituality of the Desert Fathers and Mothers  
by Henri Nouwen



In the quietest and coldest stretch of the year, when the world slows down, and our hearts ache for warmth, *The Way of the Heart* invites us to turn inward to listen more closely, to love more deeply, and to rest in the steady presence of God. Henri Nouwen leads us into the ancient wisdom of the desert fathers and mothers, who remind us that our deepest connection with God is not found in busyness or accomplishment, but in silence, solitude, and a prayerful attentiveness that reshapes the heart.

### Stephen Ministry: The Courage to Receive Care

Since February is the month of love, we are especially attuned to those not feeling love but are rather feeling isolation. If you know of someone who would benefit from having a Stephen Minister to fill some of that isolation or someone who just needs to talk please reach out to the church office.

Thank you for caring for others.

