



Rooted and Ready

Rev. Dr. Ralen M. Robinson

As we turn the page into August, there's a certain hum in the air. Summer vacations are winding down, back-to-school sales are everywhere, and while the heat still blares, we can almost imagine those cool fall mornings just around the corner.

August is a month of transition. Families with kids are getting ready for school schedules and activities again. But even if you're not buying school supplies anymore, you can feel the shift. Our rhythms change, our energy shifts, and we begin to look ahead.

In the church, August is a time for planting seeds literally and figuratively. Ministries begin to stir again, meetings return to the calendar, and things slowly start gearing up for the season ahead. The truth is, even before things officially begin, the work has already started. Teachers know this before students ever arrive, you prepare. It's the same for us as a church. We lay the groundwork, set the tone, and get ready for what's ahead.

Paul writes in Colossians 2:6-7: "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."

I love that image of being rooted and built up. Our roots run deep here, roots in worship, scripture, service, and community. But roots are just the beginning. Paul reminds us that we're also called to grow, to stretch, and to live fully into the life Christ is calling us to.

So, as we step into this new season, here are a few ways we can live that out:

- **Come back to worship with intention.** If summer's been scattered, make August your time to reconnect with God and with this community.
- **Try something new.** Teach Sunday School. Help with Youth Sunday (August 17). Assist with communion. Join a Bible study. Consider this your invitation to say yes.
- **Pray for our students and teachers.** As we bless backpacks (August 17) and classrooms open, let's surround them with love, encouragement, and prayer.
- **Pay attention to what God is stirring in you.** What hopes or questions are rising to the surface? Don't ignore them share them with someone.

The truth is, we are always being re-formed not just on Reformation Sunday or during Advent or Lent, but in these ordinary, everyday moments.

So let's enter this new season rooted and ready, ready to listen, ready to serve, and ready to be the church God is calling us to be. The Spirit is stirring, friends let's be ready for it!



Meet Our New Synod Leaders

Bishop Donna Simon and Associate to the Bishop Chad Langdon

We are excited to welcome The Rev. Donna Simon and The Rev. Chad Langdon as the newest leaders of the Central States Synod! Both are leaving their current calls to step into this new ministry together.



Bishop Simon, currently serving half-time as Director for Evangelical Mission (DEM) and pastor of St. Mark Hope and Peace Lutheran Church in Kansas City, brings a passion for shepherding congregations in formation and renewal, faithfully seeing what God can do through communities formed for mission.

Pr. Chad Langdon, former pastor of Christ Lutheran Church in Wichita as of August 18, joins as Assistant to the Bishop, bringing experience, dedication, and a heart for supporting our synod's mission and ministries. We look forward with great anticipation to their leadership and the ways God will continue to guide our synod through their ministry. Please keep them in your prayers as they begin this new chapter!

God's work. Our hands.



September 7, 2025

Rally Day & God's Work. Our Hands One Last Combined Service – September 7

One Body in Christ. Join us on Sunday, September 7, for a special day of worship and service! This will be our final combined service of the season, a chance to gather as one body in Christ as we launch into our fall ministries.

As part of God's Work. Our Hands, we will continue our worship through service by assembling school supplies for Coleman Middle School, living out God's love by serving our neighbors in need. What better way to close our combined worship season than by coming together in unity, praising God, serving others, and living out our shared calling? Come worship. Come serve. Come be the



Rally Day School Supply Drive

This Rally Day, we are giving back to our community by collecting school supplies for local schools in need. We invite you to bring a little extra when you come to worship: pens, notebooks, backpacks, and other essential school items to help students start the year strong.

There is a collection box in the narthex for your deposits, and we will be collecting supplies up until the day of the event. Thank you for your generosity and for supporting our neighbors!

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Facial Tissue | Disinfectant wipes | Paper Towels |
| • Dry Erase Markers | Packs of Pencils | Large Erasers |
| • Blue or Black Pens | Packs of Colored Pencils | Glue Sticks |
| • Sheet Protectors | Loose-Leaf Paper | Assorted Highlighters |
| • Composition Notebooks | 70 Sheet Spiral Notebooks | |



Dillons Dollars

This past quarter (April—June) 44 households earned \$146 for the Community Rewards Program. If you shop at Dillons, why not link your rewards card to Reformation Lutheran. Community Rewards is easy to use. The more you shop with Dillons, the more money we earn!



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

If you want more information about membership at Reformation, contact Rev. Ralen Robinson.

Wednesday in the Word

August 6th-27th

Exploring the Hope of the Revelation



SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

You're invited to our Summer Noon Bible Study! Join us for a time of reflection, discussion, and fellowship over lunch as we dive into Scripture together. We'll be offering sessions designed to nourish both body and spirit. Bring your sack lunch, a friend, and come ready to grow in faith and community. All are welcome!



Change: **NEW ADDRESS**

Brian Johnson & Heather Aldrich
10514 W. Atlanta Circle
Wichita, KS. 67215

New Phone Numbers & Email Addresses:

Brian Johnson: cell : 316-841-2355

Heather Aldrich cell: 316-209-4874

Change: **NEW ADDRESS** Betty Schultz, 1440 N.
Gatewood St., Apt 23, Wichita, KS 67206-1253

Change: **NEW ADDRESS** Andrew & Ali Davis,
423 N. Terrace Dr., Wichita, KS 672308-3947



Micah's Mission starts on
Aug. 10th. There will be
Mexican pastries after services
on Sunday as we wish him
godspeed and good cheer.

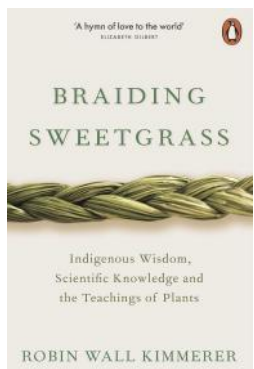
There is a fundraising jar located in the sanctuary
for contributions to support his Mission.



BTOL

The next BTOL potluck will
be **Monday, August 18th**, at
noon. A signup sheet is in the
Narthex. Please sign up to in-
dicate how many people and
what dish you will bring. This
month the speaker will be Logan Daugherty for the
Kansas Aviation Museum.

BTOL (Best Time of Life) is open to any person 55
years or older.



August Book Recommendation:

Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer

If you're looking for a book that invites you to slow down, reconnect with the earth, and rediscover the sacred in the everyday, *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants* is a profound and poetic companion. Robin Wall Kimmerer, botanist, professor, and member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, braids together three strands of understanding: Indigenous ways of knowing, Western science, and her own lived experience. With graceful storytelling and deep reverence, she invites us to consider the world not as a collection of resources, but as a gift-filled relationship.

Whether she's reflecting on maple trees, moss, or sweetgrass itself, Kimmerer teaches that gratitude and reciprocity are not only ancient Indigenous values but necessary postures for healing our planet. This is a book to be savored slowly, ideally with your feet in the soil and your heart open.

A beautiful summer read for those seeking wonder, wisdom, and a more intentional relationship with creation.

upcoming events

Aug. 5	7a.m.-7 p.m.	Voting School Board Primary
Aug. 6	Noon	Summer Bible Study
Aug. 12	6:30 p.m.	Ladies Night Out
Aug. 13	Noon	Summer Bible Study
Aug. 17	9:30 a.m.	Blessing of Backpacks
Aug. 18	Noon	B.T.O.L.
Aug. 20	Noon	Summer Bible Study
Aug. 27	Noon	Summer Bible Study



Youth Sunday

Join us on **Sunday, August 17th**, as our youth lead us in worship! From reading scripture to sharing music and prayers, they will guide us in celebrating God's love in fresh and meaningful ways. Come support and encourage the young people of our congregation as they share their gifts and remind us that faith is alive and growing in every generation.



Join us on **Sunday, August 17th**, as we celebrate **Youth Sunday** and offer a special **Blessing of the Backpacks** during worship. All students, teachers, and school staff are invited to bring their backpacks, briefcases, or work bags to receive a blessing for the new school year. Whether you're headed to preschool or packing up a college dorm, we want to send you off with prayer, love, and a community that's cheering you on. Come be blessed, encouraged, and reminded: you are not alone this school year.



August's grocery cart need is **peanut butter and jelly**—or anything else that would make a great school lunch or snack at home. When you shop, pick up a jar of crunchy or creamy peanut butter along with the jelly of your choice. Then bring your extra purchases to the grocery cart in the Narthex. Service Board will make sure your contributions are delivered to United Methodist Urban Ministries' Food Pantry for distribution to those with food insecurity. As always, thank you so much for your generous consideration of this request.



CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT—JULY

Property repairs/improvements are continuing. We accepted a quote to replace the exterior lighting so we can showcase our wonderful building. We had another set of roof repairs done last month to address various leaks that pop up during heavy rainfall.

Financial Snapshot:

Our expenses continue to be managed well and are now in line with our budget! Despite strong giving so far this year, we continue to lag behind our conservatively developed budget by \$14,870, due in part to the timing of some annual giving. We had hoped to make up a little more ground by mid-year. We would ask members to prayerfully consider their financial support for our church as we continue to carry out the mission of Reformation Lutheran Church.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Twyla Hill

- She joined Reformation in the spring of 1999.
- Twyla has never been married.
- She grew up in Anaheim, CA, closer to Knotts Berry Farm than to Disneyland.
- She dropped out of college twice before graduating from California State University, Dominguez Hills. Her BA is in Civilizations; an inter-disciplinary degree that students design in different fields, similar to WSU's Bachelor of General Studies. Her fields were Sociology, English, and Music. Her PhD is in Social Relations, which was a combination of Sociology and Anthropology, from University of California at Irvine.
- Twyla is a Professor of Sociology at Wichita State University. She specializes in Aging, Families, and Research Methods. She started there in August of 1998; it's why she moved to Wichita.
- She doesn't have any children, but she has three nieces and two great-nieces.
- She has a cat, Kate, who she adopted from the Humane Society. Kate is roughly 19 years old but in good health.
- Twyla enjoys reading, both fiction and nonfiction. She likes cooking and baking. She says it's more fun to make pies and muffins than to wash the dishes afterward, though!
- She dislikes mayonnaise and things that are made with a lot of mayonnaise, like coleslaw and potato salad.
- She likes the traditional service best. It's the style she grew up with, so it feels like church to her. She enjoys playing with the Bell Choir and singing traditional hymns. Also, it's later in the morning so she can sleep in, which she doesn't get to do during the week.
- She has been volunteering at the Sedgwick County Zoo since 2006. She is passionate about animals and conservation of nature.





Brandt Stupka	8/01
Alan Hicks	8/04
Mary Ward	8/06
Claire Byers	8/05
Lyla Keith	8/06
Allison Saunders	8/06
Reeva Anderson	8/10
Brynn Rakestraw	8/11
Andrea Fuller	8/12
Ian Fuller	8/18
Kathy Wegner	8/18
Nadine Norton	8/19
Cora Hicks	8/20
Kelsey Brumbaugh	8/21
Edwin Wilks	8/20
Kevin Winters	8/21
Donna Lee	8/22
Laurel Davis	8/23
Merrick Pippitt	8/23
Jacob Wetta	8/25
Anjanette Allbritten	8/27
Richard McDiffett	8/30



Summer Coffee Hour is Here!

Let's make Sunday mornings extra

welcoming together. Help us keep the caffeine and conversation flowing! Hosting is easy, just brew some coffee, bring a few treats to share, and tidy up afterward. Sign up at the coffee table to be part of our Summer Coffee Hour crew!



Synod Assembly Offering

Following the 2025 Synod Assembly, a total of \$17,453.89 of Assembly offering was divided and sent to Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response in the Carolinas. Thank you for your generosity and support for these worthy ministries.



Do you sing in the Car? Do you sing in the Shower? Do you sing in the cereal aisle at Dillons? Can you hum, whistle or sing a tune? Then you need to consider our new choir:

REFORMATION SINGERS.
Rehearsals begin on **TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 9th from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

We would love for you to join us to sing praises in our 11:00 worship services.

We will begin with singing once a month, and maybe add more in the future!

We would love to see you on September 9th!!!

Questions???

Contact me or catch me after church!

Hope to see you on September 9th!



REFORMATION RINGERS
Tuesday, September 9th from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

We invite you to join in with our wonderful handbell choir. Can you read a little music??? If so, this will be a fun way to present music for our 11 a.m. worship services. We play once a month and for special services—Christmas Eve and during Holy week. Hope you will consider playing with our Bell choir!!! We want to see you on September 9th !!!!



In Our Prayers

Pray for healing and safe recovery of the sick, the suffering, those defending our right to freedom of religion, our siblings in Christ and the following

Kourtney Franke	Robert Pfeiffer
Sheila Carlson	Annette Carson
Kenn Woodard	Shirley Metz
Marcia Werts	Tom McFarlane
Ed Wilks	Larry Allbritten
Mark Hobart	Waldo Gerards
Carole Lyons-Osborne	
Marilyn Allbritten	Carl Keith

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



Ladies Night Out

Ladies Night Out will be on **Tuesday, August 12th** at 6:30 p.m. at the Mediterranean Grill, 335 S. Town East Mall Dr. Please let Susan Martin know if you plan on attending. Contact Susan at 316-641-2733.



When we should be able to be out and about during the summer days, we are once again faced with temperatures that

keep us inside. If that is the case for you and you are finding yourself lonely, please reach out to Stephen Ministry. A Stephen Minister can use the telephone to be in touch with you if needed. A Stephen Minister can share God's love and care with you. A Stephen Minister can listen. Please contact Lotus Gerards at 316-683-8602 or email her.

REFORMATION YOUTH

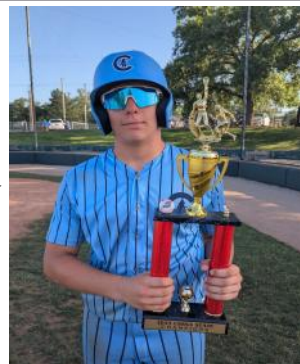
IN THE Spotlight

Welcome to our Youth Page, where we celebrate the incredible journeys of our young people this summer! Whether they're traveling near or far, serving in their communities, or discovering new horizons, our youth are boldly living out their faith in meaningful and inspiring ways.

This season, we'll share their stories, moments of growth, and snapshots of service showcasing how they're embracing God's call to love, serve, and explore the world around them.



Cohen Cross is wrapping up his summer baseball season with the ICT Cubs. He currently leads the Cubs in Home runs (5) and triples (6). He is the starting catcher and is in the regular pitching rotation. His team recently won the 13U AAA State Championship! This fall, Cohen will be playing football for Maize South Middle School.



Cole Torgerson spent 3 weeks at Castaway Club, a Young Life camp in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. Her job was as a server, so she spent her time in the dining hall setting tables, refilling condiment bottles, serving meals to campers, cleaning up after each meal, helping in the kitchen, and so much more. What she came to realize, was that through this, God would meet her so deeply. She was in awe of how He reminded her of the beauty in His creation, the joy in laughter, the comfort in community, and the purpose that came through serving others.



Elizabeth Allbritten enjoyed being a lifeguard and serving as a swim coach this summer. She also enjoys dance. She will attend K-State in the fall to major in Interior Architecture and Design.



Thatcher Rakestraw Reflection: Gods Wonder

My Dad and I recently went to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. Philmont is one of four high adventure camps that Scouting has, and is the oldest. It was donated to the Scouts by Waite Phillips, who is famous for oil exploration and the boom and building of L.A. and Tulsa. Philmont allows Scouts to hike on its property for 7-12 days, covering 40-80 miles, and in those days, you only have what you are carrying on your back. They provide all your food for those days and a tent. In addition, you have to carry all your clothes and the rest of the gear you may need (water bottles, sleeping bag, utensils, etc.). Now you may be wondering how one gets ready for such a long, strenuous hike. Well, it takes a lot, some may say a troop. You gather with your troop about a year or two in advance and talk about what you would like to do on the trail, how many days you would like to stay on the trail, and how to get there. My troop, or as Philmont calls them, “crew,” decided on a 12-day trek in which we would pick up food twice and hike Baldy, the highest point on the property. Now, after deciding all these things, we took this year to buy the gear we would need and to get our bodies ready for the hike. Our trek number was 12-22, which is one of the hardest they offer. The 12 stands for days on trail, and the 22 is the toughness ranking of the trek. The toughness ranking can range from 1, being the easiest, to 28, being the hardest. The number of miles that our trek was supposed to be was 68, which already sounds like a lot, but soon we came to find out that that number was a lie. Our crew went over 125 miles at Philmont with some back-to-back days where we gained 3,000 feet of elevation each day. Now you may be thinking that only crazy people go on this, and you may be right, but the feeling you get when you climb a 12,500-foot mountain and get to look down at God’s creation below and to hear and live in the world without a phone to check every second is something I will never forget. The world and the land of Philmont is so beautiful that anyone and everyone should just take a day and walk around and enjoy the wilderness. Maybe not go to the extent that my Dad and I went, but to just see everything and take it all in.



August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Office Closed	2
3 9:30 a.m. Summer Worship Baptism & Receiving New Members Friendship Day	4 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 7 p.m. Back to Basics	5 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 7 a.m. Voting School Bd. Primary 9 a.m. Blanket Makers 9 a.m. Pastor Office Hours	6 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 10 a.m. Pastor Office Hours 12 p.m. Weds. in the Word	7 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 6 p.m. Worship Board 7 p.m. Fellowship	8 Office Closed	9
10 9:30 a.m. Summer Worship Micah's Send Off	11 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 7 p.m. Back to Basics	12 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 9 a.m. Blanket Makers 9 a.m. Pastor Office Hours 6:30 p.m. Ladies Night Out	13 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 10 a.m. Pastor Office Hours 10:30 a.m. In Reach 12 p.m. Weds. in the Word	14 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 10 a.m. Rebecca Circle	15 Office Closed <i>Ref Life Deadline</i>	16 7 a.m. St. Paul's Community Breakfast
17 Youth Sunday/Blessing of the Backpacks 9:30 a.m. Summer Worship	18 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 9 a.m. B.T.O.L. 7 p.m. Back to Basics	19 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 9 a.m. Blanket Makers 9 a.m. Pastor Office Hours 7 p.m. Church Council	20 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 10 a.m. Pastor Office Hours 12 p.m. Weds. in the Word 1 p.m. Dorcas Circle	21 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m.	22 Office Closed	23
24 9:30 a.m. Summer Worship Receiving New Members	25 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 11 a.m. Assistance League 7 p.m. Back to Basics	26 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 9 a.m. Blanket Makers 9 a.m. Pastor Office Hours Women's Equality Day	27 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 10 a.m. Pastor Office Hours 12 p.m. Weds. in the Word	28 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 9 a.m. Justice Together	29 Office Closed	30 Pastor off
31 9:30 a.m. Summer Worship 12:30 p.m.-5 p.m. Private Event – Parish Hall Pastor off						