




## **Renew and Reconnect Daily Devotions for Lent 2022**



A lot has changed in the two years since Reformation last produced a Lenten devotional booklet. We all have endured stress. We've been anxious, concerned, impatient, worried. Some of us have endured loss. But, as the writers of Reformation remind us, we still have hope — hope in Christ and his gift of everlasting life.

In its pages, you'll find personal stories of faith and encouragement as we seek ways to renew ourselves and our faith during the pandemic and reconnect with each other and our community.


And, of course, there are the dozens of writers of all ages, who stepped out of their comfort zones and shared parts of themselves with us. You'll find their names at the bottom of each page.

Our booklet, the 30th edition of Daily Devotions for Lent, is dedicated to Dallas Cronk, who shepherded Reformation's Lenten devotionals for many years. We miss you, Dallas, but your vision and inspiration live on.

We hope you will find the writings thought-provoking, encouraging and uplifting.

Available starting Sunday, Feb 27th. Please only take one booklet per family.

Marcia Werts, editor  
Ken Hobart, coordinator



## Into The Wilderness of Lent: A Spiritual Awakening

"Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup> He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." <sup>4</sup> But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Matthew 4:1-4

Epiphany has come and gone like a warm day in Kansas winter. We are at the beginning of our Lenten journey. Every year when we embark on these solemn forty days, we set aside these days to reflect on the love Jesus gave us with His ultimate sacrifice by fasting and giving something up. We see this in the book of Matthew and Luke, where Jesus is swept up in a gust of wind and thrown into the wilderness where he is tempted and he fasted for forty days. In those forty nights and days, Jesus had to overcome and prevail against all the evil forces and remain steeped within God's mission and His purpose. Thus, each step into lent is a step into deep reflection, preparation, solemn observation, and prayer.

While Lent is usually a period where we give something up, we have given up so much these past two years. We have given up gathering opportunities, birthdays, vacations, and the list goes on. So, this year I challenge you to incorporate something into your spiritual life. I want you to ask the question, what is giving you energy? What is feeding your soul? And what is something you want to incorporate into your spiritual journey? As you answer these questions, take a pause, and look around. Look at what you have and what you need to strengthen and continue your spiritual life. This Lenten season I will not only be incorporating Reformations daily devotional but will be doing a personal bible study called SOAP:

Scripture: pick a chapter or a few verses in a biblical book of your choosing.

Observation: what stands out, what words or stories captivate you

Application: how does this apply to your life or your day

Prayer: end with a prayer

I will be reading the book of Exodus, and in each chapter, I will explore the sacred text in how it applies to me, my life, and its teachings. I challenge you to add new tools to your spiritual toolbox. Rather, it is carving out moments of peace during the day, incorporating self-care once a week, reading your bible daily, or practicing positive affirmations. I urge you to see how God works throughout your spiritual life this Lenten season and how you can grow, shape, and add.

What are you bringing into your Lenten journey?

Prayerfully submitted, *Rev. Ralen Robinson*

## DID YOU KNOW?

### Fun Facts about Reformation Lutheran Church:

- In 1989 the senior high youth attended the Lutheran Youth Encounter in Denver and went on a ski trip.
- Pastor Tamara Kloos became Reformation's first assistant Pastor in 1990.
- Barb Lee and Jette Mortensen started the Parish Nursing program in 1993, and 7 parish nurses were commissioned in 1994.
- To hold on to some of Reformation's past several items from the old church building were kept. The 12 quoins, now located in the narthex, the cross on the corner sign, the altar and the baptismal font base were incorporated into the new church building.
- In 1998 BTOL (Best Times of Life) started and still continues today. Those who are 55 and over meet for a potluck lunch and fellowship.

# Getting to Know You

## Gene Bowers

- He has been a member for 35 years.
- He was born and raised in Wichita, Kansas.
- Gene and Dovie were married for 38 years.
- He went to Southeast High School and then attended Kansas State Teachers College in Emporia. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Radio and TV, referred to today as Communications. Following that he earned a Masters in Theatre Technology.
- Gene taught Theatre Technology and was the Technical Director at the University of Minnesota, Morris. He attended Texas Tech and studied for his Doctorate in Fine Arts. He taught and was the Technical Director at the University of Wisconsin. Gene and Dovie moved back to Wichita with their family where Gene joined the family business, Bowers Luxury Homes. In 1992 he started his own business, Bowers Remodeling, and he retired in 2008.
- He has 3 children. Aaron lives in Wichita, Heather in Lewisville, TX and Andrew in Frisco, TX. He has 13 grandchildren, 2 grand-spouses and will welcome into the family a great grandson this spring.
- Gene's constant companion is an Otterhound mix named Sadie, who has been with him for 7 or 8 years. His grandson Liam says: "she is as old as you are grandpa"
- One of his hobbies is model railroading, which he has done for about 5 years.
- Gene's least favorite thing to do is housekeeping, which is why he has 2 very good cleaning ladies that take care of that.
- Dovie and Gene usually went to the Traditional service, because that was the service Dovie wanted to attend.
- When the RISE Service started Gene worked on the technical side with sound and lighting.

Gene was married into the Lutheran Church, and he has enjoyed being a member of Reformation. He says like anything else in life, he's had his ups and downs. The things he's enjoyed most are: producing Will Johnson's liturgical plays with Will, being a part of developing RISE with Pastor Lowell and putting in almost 9 years of service keeping the "new" church building up to date.



Hello, everyone.

I'm excited to tell you about one important way Reformation will be moving forward this spring.

As you all know, we had sought to have an interim pastor to help our congregation determine its next steps. As we waited for an interim pastor, we began to take steps forward on our own. Eventually, we reached a place where we feel we have transitioned from where we were a year ago. We have weathered changes and are ready to see what God has planned for us next.

In the past two years, so much has changed – for us personally, our congregation, our community and the world. The council thoughtfully and prayerfully considered whether an interim pastor is what we need at this time. We concluded that we need someone to help us discern what God is calling us to do now. What is God's plan for us as we grow into our future?

A small group of Reformation members has been participating in a virtual program called Vital Congregations: Reboot for congregations seeking to stay vital and to serve their communities. One of our participants, PMA Anita Dorf, has stepped forward and offered to lead our congregation in listening to and discerning what God is calling us to do next – in helping us to learn our mission. The council has unanimously accepted her offer.

You'll hear more from her about this effort in this newsletter and in the future as we firm up the details. We hope to see everyone take part in this crucial work as we discern God's plan for what is to come.

-Marcia Werts



## Evangelical Lutheran Church

How exciting to be moving forward with this incredible congregation and Pastor! As Marcia described, a group of us have been participating in a zoom program presented by the ELCA, Vital Congregations. This program gives guidance and examples for congregations listening to where God is leading them. We have felt the Holy Spirit guiding us as we have participated and believe that we are ready, with the continuing help of the Holy Spirit, to begin the next steps.

A planning group will work on the next phase and will communicate with you every step of the way. What we do know for certain right now is that each of you is needed in our journey to the renewal of Reformation. We will meet in small groups for a brief trip into the Bible to discover what God has been up to for the ages and how this informs God's plan for us. As a result of many small group meetings (zoom and in person), the Church Council will have Spirit-led input for a purpose statement and direction for Reformation.

We are ready and able and inspired. God has been and continues to be with us as we discern God's purpose for Reformation.

God has a mission in the world.  
God's mission has a church.  
God's church has a purpose in God's mission.

-Anita Dorf



## Camp Tomah Shinga Teaming with Bethany College and Central States Synod and Synod Youth Leaders in Planning an 2022 “No Coast” Youth Gathering

*"Join us July 23rd-27th for the No Coast Youth Gathering at Camp Tomah Shinga. Partnering with the Central States Synod and Bethany College, we are excited to serve the central states (and beyond) for an alternative ELCA National Youth Gathering. With special guest speakers, a band, and much more, this is an event you will not want to miss!...."*

*"....Food, housing, service projects and events are all included in the \$450 price."*

Camp Tomah Shinga is working with youth leaders from across the synod and is preparing to offer this exciting alternative event. Additional details will be coming soon. If you have any questions, contact Jacob Spilker.



### Currently Scheduled Events:

High School Retreat - March 11th - 7 p.m. - March 13th 10 a.m.

Middle School Retreat March 25th - March 27 10 a.m.

Elementary Retreat Saturday April 2 7 p.m. to April 3 8 p.m.

## YouthQuake: The theme this year was ‘Courage and Strength’



*"Have I not commanded you?  
Be strong and courageous.  
Do not be terrified,  
do not be discouraged,  
for the Lord your God will  
be with you wherever you go."  
Joshua 1:9*



### STICKWORK OVERVIEW

Reformation members have an opportunity to participate in an exciting event sponsored by our neighbors to the east, Mark Arts. After more than three years of planning and preparation, internationally acclaimed artist Patrick Dougherty will visit Wichita, Kansas to begin his historic, site-specific public art installation at Mark Arts.

They are seeking dedicated, enthusiastic volunteers during four-hour shifts either morning (8 a.m. – 12 p.m.) or afternoon (1 – 5 p.m.) Some volunteers will need to be comfortable working on scaffold; that is, not afraid of heights. Responsible and dedicated volunteers aged 16 and up are welcome to participate.

Interested volunteers should email program director, Chloe Lang, at Mark Arts.



### CALENDAR

March 15	Volunteer interest deadline
March 22	Volunteer confirmation notification and schedule
May 2 - 5	Local harvest of materials
May 5 - 20	Stickwork construction
May 20	Opening reception and volunteer celebration

## Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry remains faithfully available to travel with you in life's painful interruptions! We are people who listen first and foremost. We are safe because we are confidential. And we will pray with you, asking the Holy Spirit to remain by your side. Lotus Gerards is our confidential placement coordinator and will be glad to visit with you about Stephen Ministry.

Give her a call at 316-683-8602.

## 2022 Synod Assembly June 9-11, 2022



### Keynote Speaker:

Cynthia Moe-Lobeda, Ph.D. Professor of Theological and Social Ethics. Dr. Moe-Lobeda, a well-known Lutheran ethicist, holds a joint appointment at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and Church Divinity School of the Pacific. She is a member of the Core Doctoral Faculty of the Graduate Theological Union.

### Important Information, Forms, and Deadlines:

Voting Member information and waiver - **Due March 1, 2022**

Assembly Partnerships - **Due April 15, 2022**

Nominations

Nomination form - **Due April 15, 2022**

Resolution Guidelines

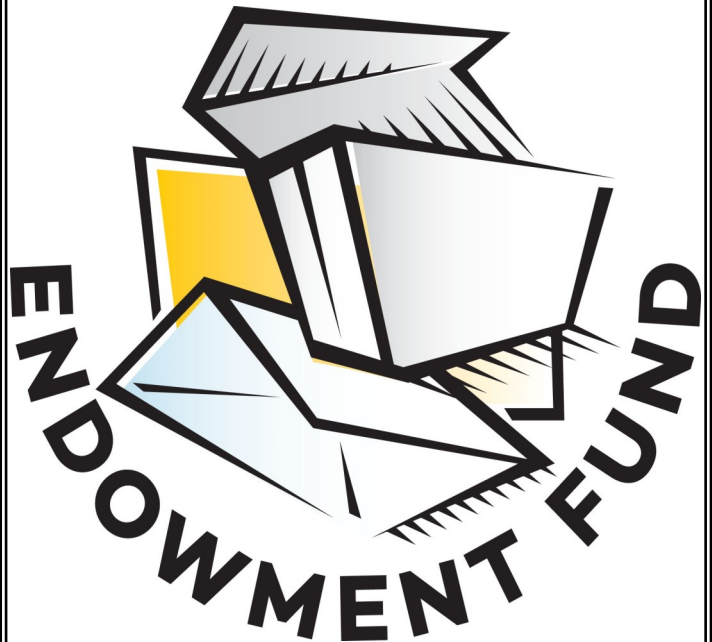
Resolution form - **Due April 15, 2022**

Visit the registration link at:

<https://www.css-elca.org/assembly>

## Endowment Fund Grant Deadline

The deadline for applications for grants from the Reformation Endowment Fund is **April 15th**. The Endowment Fund supports programs that further the mission of Reformation Lutheran Church, the Synod, and the greater ELCA community. To get applications; they're available by contacting the church office. Individuals or organizations are encouraged to apply.



## Worship Planning Meeting

On Saturday morning, January 29th, a group of sixteen Reformation members met with Pastor Ralen for the purpose of envisioning worship as we move forward. The group included members and musicians representing both services, the Worship Board, and our Council President. The group looked at and reflected on the combined services that have been held over the past several months, raised questions and concerns, and most importantly, listened to one another.

This gathering was one step in a continuing journey as we do our best to discern what it is that God means for us to do. The morning ended with some exciting possibilities to explore.



## Tulip Orders Welcome

It is time to start making requests for tulips to be ordered for Easter. Please insert your payment into the "Tulips for Easter" envelopes and drop them into the collection basket at any Sunday service, or mail your envelope to the Church.

Please submit any requests by April 3rd, 2022.

**\*\*one plant is \$7.50\*\***



# MESSIAH

## *festival of the arts*

The 2022 Messiah Festival of the Arts at  
Bethany College in Lindsborg, KS  
will be April 8-17.

The theme this year is:

**“The Art of Servant Leadership.”**

Tickets are already available at <https://www.messiahfestival.org/shop/>

Tickets now on sale for: Godspell - 7:30 p.m. April 9, 2022 and 3:00 p.m. April 10, 2022

The Passion according to St. Matthew, 7:30 p.m. April 15, 2022 and Handel's Messiah, 3 p.m. April 17, 2022

### Forty Days of Food

**For many in our community  
access to food is not a given.**



40 for 40: 40 items of food staples for 40 days of Lent. We will have a box available in the Narthex to collect your donations beginning Sunday February 27—we know it is not Lent yet, but we are going to be prepared in all ways!

We will deliver your donations to the Open Door Food Pantry so that they may distribute food to those who have food insecurity in the community. Thank you for your everlasting generosity. Your gifts make life possible for others.

- Thank you from the Service Board

### Open Door Food Pantry

Our collection for March for the United Methodist Urban Ministry Open Door Food Pantry is

#### PEANUT BUTTER!

All things peanut butter; all kinds of peanut butter. And perhaps something sweet and fruity to go along with it, like grape jam. Peanut butter is an amazing food staple for all ages. So, while you are getting your peanut butter re-supplied at the grocery store, pick up an extra one or two jars for those who have food insecurity. And thank you!!!

### Spring Break—Help Kids Eat March 11 through March 18 2022

Lunches will be provided to kids during Spring Break in Wichita, Oaklawn and Haysville at a number of locations including churches and community centers. Mark your calendars now to volunteer. This year the lunches for an entire week will be distributed to kids up to age 18 on a single day (probably Monday.) For more information contact Partners for Wichita 925 N. Waco, Wichita, KS 67203

### CROP Walk Planning

Plans are underway for the 2022 Wichita CROP Hunger Walk Sunday, October 2, 2022 at Sedgwick County Park. The committee is currently seeking t-shirt sponsors. Contact Elaine Harvey at [elaine.harvey@wichita.edu](mailto:elaine.harvey@wichita.edu) for information and have a look at [cropwalkwichita.org](http://cropwalkwichita.org) or the national [crophungerwalk.org](http://crophungerwalk.org) website. 1/4th of the funds raised stay local and are shared among hunger programs here in Wichita including the Community Breakfast at St. Paul's-Wichita.



INTERNATIONAL  
**RESCUE**  
COMMITTEE

### International Rescue Committee (IRC): Resettlement of Refugees from Afghanistan.

The Wichita chapter of IRC is coordinating the resettlement of refugees from Afghanistan relocating to Wichita. The process to become a volunteer takes time and will indeed be worth it. They need Housing Set-Up Volunteers to work with their staff to get homes ready for our new neighbors.

They also need Cultural Orientation Volunteers to help the refugees adjust to life in the middle of the USA. They have a web site that describes the needs and the process:

<https://www.rescue.org/united-states/wichita-ks>

They also are requesting donations on that site. If this is something that you have been wondering about, find yourself being driven by the Holy Spirit, please go to this site to explore options and methods.



## MARCH 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>27</b> 7:30 AM Rise Rehearsal 8:30 AM Rise Worship 9:45 AM Confirmation Class 9:45 AM Learning for All Ages 11:00 AM Traditional Worship	<b>28</b> Church Office Open 9am-3pm 10:00 AM Assistance League - Parish Hall 7:00 PM Back to Basics - Parish Hall	<b>1</b> Church Office Open 9am-3pm 9:00 AM Blanket Makers	<b>2</b> Church Office Open 9am-3pm 12:00 PM Ash Wednesday 5:30 PM Chris Cakes Supper 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday	<b>3</b> Church Office Open 9am-3pm 6:00 PM Youth Ministry Team 7:00 PM Ministry Boards	<b>4</b> Church Office Open 9am-12pm	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 7:30 AM Rise Rehearsal 8:30 AM Rise Worship 9:45 AM Confirmation Class 9:45 AM Learning for All Ages 11:00 AM Traditional Worship	<b>7</b> Church Office Open 9am-3pm 7:00 PM Back to Basics - Parish Hall	<b>8</b> Church Office Open 9am-3pm 9:00 AM Blanket Makers	<b>9</b> Church Office Open 9am-3pm 9:30 AM Stephen Ministry 11:00 AM In Reach 1:00 PM Service Board 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Lenten Service	<b>10</b> Church Office Open 9am-3pm 10:00 AM Rebecca Circle - Parish Hall	<b>11</b> Church Office Open 9am-12pm	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 7:30 AM Rise Rehearsal 8:30 AM Rise Worship 9:45 AM Confirmation Class 9:45 AM Learning for All Ages 11:00 AM Traditional Worship	<b>14</b> Church Office Open 9am-3pm 12:00 PM BTOL Potluck 7:00 PM Back to Basics - Parish Hall	<b>15</b> Church Office Open 9am-3pm Ref/ Life Deadline 9:00 AM Blanket Makers 7:00 PM Church Council	<b>16</b> Church Office Open 9am-3pm 1:00 PM Dorcas Circle 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Lenten Service	<b>17</b> Church Office Open 9am-3pm	<b>18</b> Church Office Open 9am-12pm	<b>19</b> 7:00 AM St. Paul's Community Breakfast
<b>20</b> 7:30 AM Rise Rehearsal 8:30 AM Rise Worship 9:45 AM Confirmation Class 9:45 AM Learning for All Ages 11:00 AM Traditional Worship	<b>21</b> Church Office Open 9am-3pm 7:00 PM Back to Basics - Parish Hall	<b>22</b> Church Office Open 9am-3pm 9:00 AM Blanket Makers	<b>23</b> Church Office Open 9am-3pm 9:30 AM Stephen Ministry 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Lenten Service	<b>24</b> Church Office Open 9am-3pm	<b>25</b> Church Office Open 9am-12pm	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 7:30 AM Rise Rehearsal 8:30 AM Rise Worship 9:45 AM Confirmation Class 9:45 AM Learning for All Ages 11:00 AM Traditional Worship	<b>28</b> Church Office Open 9am-3pm 10:30 AM Assistance League - Parish Hall 7:00 PM Back to Basics - Parish Hall	<b>29</b> Church Office Open 9am-3pm 9:00 AM Blanket Makers	<b>30</b> Church Office Open 9am-3pm 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Lenten Service	<b>31</b> Church Office Open 9am-3pm	<b>1</b> Church Office Open 9am-12pm	<b>2</b>