

## The In-between Time

by: Rev. Ralen M. Robinson

*“When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars  
that you have established;” -Psalm 8:3*

It's not fall yet, but summer is coming to an end. In this in-Between time, I stand still, watching cotton candy skies above my head as cooler air surrounds me. I take time just to be. Songstress Sister Rosetta Tharpe once said, *“Up above my head, I hear music in the air, And I believe that there's a Heaven somewhere.”* As the heavens open up, the rain showers have stopped, and the sky reflects in the pools on the ground; I feel closer to God. The pink, blue, and violet colors remind me of God's love. I can see the sky for miles on a clear day, and its vastness reminds me of God's greatness.

This beauty encapsulates God's power in creation. Often, I find myself staring up above and watching the birds soar and the sun reflecting on the specs of clouds. It reminds me of wind chimes hanging in the window that throw reflections of color on the ground, mesmerizing me. At this moment, I can't imagine being alone because God's beauty surrounds me. I am reminded that everything created is done by a loving God who gave us something vast, captivating, and striking.

It is easy to be blasé. We can easily miss or not notice it because it has always been there. How often have we forgotten the beauty within ourselves or the gifts we possess? In this in-between season, I want you to look within yourself and marvel at the treasures in your treasure chest. What gifts do you share and give to people and the communities you serve? We are called to be stewards of God's creation, which means giving of our time, talent, and treasure to support and uplift the communities we call home; that also extends to our churches. God has entrusted us to care for and serve God's creation. We are a part of this beautiful tapestry, so we must use our gifts to sustain and enlighten the world, for God trusts us enough to do so.

In Psalm 8, King David praises God's beautiful creation. God is right in front of our faces because God has always been and will be there, especially in times of transition. God's presence envelops us and covers us wherever we go and whatever space we are in. God's handiwork is seen. All you have to do is look above your head. Because when you do, God's light shines on you and equips you to use your gifts. When was the last time you admired the birds of the air, the sky's pillowy clouds stretching across and changing colors? When was the last time you were grateful for God's creation? Give thanks and praise for it. This season, as we step into September, take a moment to see how you are using your gifts and cherishing what was entrusted to you from the one above.



# Getting to Know You

## Barbara Huff



- Her family joined Reformation around 1974. In 1986 she and her youngest daughter moved to Lawrence, KS, while her older daughter stayed in Wichita to attend Friends University. She moved to Washington DC in 1992. Barbara semi retired in 2005 and returned to Wichita. She started attending Reformation again in 2013.
- Barbara grew up in Wichita with twin brothers and parents who were actively involved in the Wichita community. She went to North High School.
- She attended Wichita State University and studied communications. Did you know that WSU used to be called Wichita University? The name changed after her freshman year.
- She went back to work decorating model homes for "The Very

Idea" in 1983 after her divorce.

- In 1985 her career took a totally different path due to the fact that one of her daughters had health and mental health issues. There was a lack of services and support for her family and other families struggling to find the help they needed. In 1988 she started an organization to help Kansas families who had children with serious mental health challenges. In 1992 she moved to Washington DC to open an office to organize a national advocacy movement to impact change in how services were being provided to children with mental health needs and their families. She worked with congress, the federal government and state governments to help reform their mental health systems. Since moving back to Kansas she worked until recently as a consultant.
- Her daughters both live in the Wichita area. Her youngest daughter is the mother of her 3 grandchildren. Colin, 27, lives in Richmond, VA. Karter, 25, lives in Denver and is getting married next month. Campbell is a junior at Kansas State University.
- She has 2 cats, both are rescues, and they have her heart.
- Barbara enjoys volunteer efforts, especially Family Promise at Reformation. She loves to read and also enjoys taking care of the flowers in her yard.
- She has always attended the traditional service, however, she has really enjoyed the services this summer.
- Barbara was the first woman to help the pastor serve communion at Reformation.



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### Hello Family Promise Volunteers!

It is time to start thinking about our next host week. We are scheduled to host families again at Reformation **September 22nd to 29th.**

To volunteer please contact Dulcinea Rakestraw  
We look forward to a great week.

**Our work makes a difference!**



Adult Education will begin on Sept 15. We are going to finish the Book of Acts. Then move over to Galatians. We will look at the book through Luther's teaching and our foundational ideas of grace.

## August 2024 Council Recap

Thank you to everyone who has helped make the single summer service a successful venture. To the musicians, the coffee hosts, the ushers, the lectors, the assisting ministers, our PMA's and all the others who have done things behind the scenes your support is APPRECIATED!!  
 Financial Snapshot:

We are just past the halfway point of the year. Our expenses are being managed well and are in line with our budget, as of the end of July we were \$2,275 under budget. Unfortunately, despite consistent giving, our income has been falling behind our expectations and is now \$22,800 under our conservatively developed budget, and still lagging behind last year's receipts. As a council we are actively watching the numbers. While we have historically managed to meet our budget we would ask members to continue to prayerfully, financially support our church as we carry out the mission of Reformation Lutheran Church.



Pastor will be officiating at her childhood friend's wedding in Philadelphia from **September 19th to 30th.**



Can you carry a tune? We are looking for **cantors** for the fall traditional service.

Contact Pastor Ralen.

In her absence, PMA Anita Dorf and Pr. Melissa Woeppel will lead us in worship. For Pastoral Emergencies contact Cheryl Hoops. 316-347-6221.



Need someone to help catalog books in library and freshen the library up.

Time needed: 1 week.



Many thanks to everyone who helped make the Summer Worship Service a success. A special thank



Looking for someone to assist with the audio at services.

you to Pastor Ralen for the beautiful service that she wrote. Also give thanks for the musicians who provided the wonderful music; to the sound technicians, altar guild, lectors, ushers, greeters, and assisting ministers and anyone else who worked behind the scene to make the Summer Worship Service a success. As we conclude this summer, please find a survey in your email, and there are a few hard copies available in the Narthex for you to fill out on your experience this summer. The survey will run for a week and a half to gather everyone's opinions and insight.



Tellers are needed: 1 for October and 2 for December. See the sign up sheet on Finance Office door if you can help.

**OFFERING COUNTERS**



Thank you to everyone who signed up for Altar Flowers. All the slots are filled

*"God writes the gospel not in the Bible alone, but on trees and flowers and clouds and stars." Martin Luther*

God's work. Our hands.

Sunday September 8 is the DATE!



Service Board and the Learning Board have been collecting items for Family Promise Housewarming Blessing Bundles this summer and now is the time to assemble all you have donated into Blessing Bundles.



Kit Making Day 2024

Our work will continue in Parish Hall as we make bundles for families that are moving into a home after successful completion of the Family Promise program.

Everyone is invited into Parish Hall following the first service on **Sunday September 8** where an assembly line will be set up for you to make the needed bundles. There may even be treats!!!! For those who are interested in writing an encouraging note, a table will be set up for your creative greetings. This "bundling" ends our summer collection period and will create joyful gifts for all the families who are graduating throughout the year. Thanks to each and every one of you for your generous donations. Now, come help us complete our joy-filled task. **See you September 8!!!**



The Reformation Mission Endowment Fund was established in 2000 and the earnings on the fund provide grants. Requests for funding may come from programs that further the mission of Reformation Lutheran Church, the Synod or the broader ELCA.

Any individual or group interested in requesting funds for fall 2024 should pick up an application in the Reformation office, complete it, and return it to the office by **OCTOBER 15**. Soon after that, the Endowment Committee will meet to consider the applications and award grants based on the

amount of money available this year in the fund.



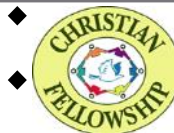
### September's Food Cart Designation

This month as we look forward to cooler weather and full school activities, we are requesting breakfast foods: hot cereal, cold cereal, granola bars, toaster pastries, and the list goes on and on. Pick up some breakfast items for the United Methodist Urban Ministries' Open Door Food Pantry and place them in the grocery cart in the Narthex. All that you donate helps those who have food insecurity. Thank you so much.



Retreat for Women of ELCA

Central States Synod Central Conference Women of ELCA plans a weekend of fellowship, Bible study and fun at a retreat **October 18-19 in Lindsborg.**



Rebecca's Circle will start up again on **Sept. 12 at 10 a.m.**

- ◆ We will be studying The History and Archeology of the Bible: Part 1: The World of Genesis. Everyone is welcome!
- ◆

### Stephen Ministry

What an up and down heat-wise summer we have had! Hopefully the Fall will give us the energy and joy needed to continue our journeys toward the Holidays. During this time we want to remind you that a Stephen Minister is there for you as you encounter days or times that are not so full of joy. We have open ears and open hearts to accompany you on your journey. Please contact Anita Dorf at 316-210-9124.





## Attendance Update

<b>Aug 4</b>	
Summer Service:	93
<b>Aug 11</b>	
Summer Service:	95
<b>Aug. 18</b>	
Summer Service:	90
<b>Aug. 25</b>	
Summer Service:	83



Office closed on  
**Monday, September 2,**  
in honor of Labor Day.



316-617-3819

Ladies Night Out  
**Tuesday, September 10 at 6:30.**  
Saltgrass Steakhouse  
2624 Greenwich Rd.  
Contact Angela Davis for more information.



Ladies Night Out at Prost



**Interested in becoming a Member or Know Someone Who is?**

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



## In Our Prayers

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

Kourtney Franke  
Robert Pfeiffer  
Annette Carson  
Sheila Carlson  
Jessi Coleman  
Ed Wilks  
Kenn Woodard  
Marcia Werts  
Sheldon Christenson  
Shirley Metz  
Carole Lyons-Osborne  
Matthew Demoura  
Larry Allbritten

**Additional prayer requests may be written in the book at the back of the sanctuary.**

Brown, Marianne	2-Sep
Pfeiffer, Jay	2-Sep
Steward, Christine	2-Sep
Camenzind, Jacob	3-Sep
Camenzind, Mark	3-Sep
Pippitt, Warren	3-Sep
Pippitt, John	4-Sep
Yeskie, Scott	4-Sep
Rakestraw, Dallas	7-Sep
Horter, Blake	8-Sep
Lindemann, Troy	8-Sep
Marshall, Connor	8-Sep
Steward, Cailan	9-Sep
Vlomis, Karen	9-Sep
Aagaard, John	10-Sep
Everson, Terry	10-Sep
Fuller, Rodd	10-Sep
Bachman, William	12-Sep
Jensen, Heidi	12-Sep
Yeskie, Janice	12-Sep
Steward, Shawn	14-Sep
Stupka, Dustan	14-Sep
Jowdy, David	15-Sep
English, Leslie E.	16-Sep
Nugent, Melisa	16-Sep
Schrader, Nathan	18-Sep
McKinney Mark	20-Sep
Camenzind, Jane	21-Sep
Woodard, Barbara	21-Sep
Saunders, Mark	22-Sep
Ryding, Paul	23-Sep
Marshall, Allison	24-Sep
Rindt, Derek	24-Sep
Rakestraw, Thatcher	25-Sep
Camenzind, Ryan J.	27-Sep
Vlomis, Ted W.	28-Sep

## upcoming events

Sept. 2	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>
Sept. 4	Hand Bell practice
Sept. 8	Rally Days
	Gods Work Our Hands
Sept. 10	Ladies Night Out
Sept. 15	Learning for All Ages
Set. 19	Lifeline Screening
Sept. 22-28	Family Promise Week
Sept. 23-30	Pastor is out of office.



## Mark Your Calendar

We return to our regular worship schedule September 8th at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.



### Back to School Prayer

◆ Lord, grant us peace as we send our children back to school. Help us trust in your care and guidance for them each day. Amen.




Mark your calendar for Blessing of the Animals this fall, **October 5th**. Bring your

◆ pet for an outside service at the Meditation Garden as we celebrate God's love for creation and being entrusted to be its stewards.



**BTOL (Best Time of Life) B.T.O.L.** had a great turnout. Thank you, Susan Martin for arranging the speaker, Rabbi Pepperstone. Next event is **October 21st at noon**. Details will follow.



**PUZZLE** 

**AMAZING ILLUMINATION**

God grants us knowledge and understanding through his holy Word, which is like a flashlight.

Directions: Arrange the words from Psalm 119:105 (NIV) in order. Then unscramble the circled letters to complete James 1:5 (NIV).

PATH IS LIGHT WORD  
MY FOR LAMP A FEET ON MY


Psalm 119:105, NIV

If any of you lacks \_\_\_\_\_, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. James 1:5, NIV

# Kids Corner


**a Brainy breakfast**

Add a smart start to your school day with **SUPERFOODS** that promote a healthy body and mind.



**What you need:**

- Large bowl
- 1 medium avocado
- 3 hard-boiled eggs
- Salt
- Whole wheat toast
- Pumpkin seeds, chopped
- Adult help




**What you do:**

1. Mash the avocado in the bowl.
2. Chop the eggs into cubes and add to the bowl.
3. Add salt to taste. Mix well.
4. Spread over two pieces of toast. Top with chopped pumpkin seeds.
5. Adjust this recipe with your favorite flavors. Add herbs, "everything bagel" seasoning or hot sauce.
6. Refrigerate leftovers in an airtight container.

**Bible Quiz**

Who helped Samuel understand that it was the Lord calling him in the night?

A. his mother, Hannah  
B. Moses  
C. his father, Elkanah  
D. Eli



Answer: D (See 1 Samuel 3:1-10)

September 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 a.m. Summer Worship	2 Church Office Open 9am-3pm 7 p.m. Back to Basics - Parish Hall	3 Church Office Open 9am-3pm 9 a.m. Blanket Makers 9 a.m. Pastor Office Hours	4 Church Office Open 9am-3pm 10 a.m. Pastor Office Hours 6:30 p.m. Handbell practice	5 Church Office Open 9am-3pm 6 p.m. Worship Board 7 p.m. Fellowship	6 Church Office Closed	7
8 Rally Day/God's Work Our Hands Homebound Communion 8:30 a.m. Rise Worship 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship	Labor Day - Office Closed 9 Church Office Open 9am-3pm 7 p.m. Back to Basics - Parish Hall	10 Church Office Open 9am-3pm 9 a.m. Blanket Makers 9 a.m. Pastor Office Hours	11 Church Office Open 9am-3pm 10 a.m. Pastor Office Hours 10:30 a.m. In Reach 6:30 p.m. Handbell practice Patriot Day	12 Church Office Open 9am-3pm 10 a.m. Rebecca Circle	13 Church Office Closed	14
National Grandparents Day	16 Church Office Open 9am-3pm 7 p.m. Back to Basics - Parish Hall	17 Church Office Open 9am-3pm 9 a.m. Blanket Makers 9 a.m. Pastor Office Hours 7 p.m. Church Council	18 Church Office Open 9am-3pm 10 a.m. Pastor Office Hours 1:00 p.m. Dorcas Circle 6:30 p.m. Handbell practice	19 Church Office Open 9am-3pm Lifeline Screening 9 -6	20 Church Office Closed	21 7 a.m. St. Paul's Community Breakfast
15 Ref Life Deadline 8:30 a.m. Rise Worship 9:45 a.m. Bible Study & Confirmation 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship	23 Church Office Open 9am-3pm 7 p.m. Back to Basics - Parish Hall 9 a.m. Assistance League	24 Church Office Open 9am-3pm 9 a.m. Blanket Makers 9 a.m. Pastor Office Hours Pastor out of office	25 Church Office Open 9am-3pm 10 a.m. Pastor Office Hours 1 p.m.-3 p.m. Asst. League 6:30 p.m. Handbell practice Pastor out of office	26 Church Office Open 9am-3pm	27 Church Office Closed	28 Pastor out of office
22 8:30 a.m. Rise Worship 9:45 a.m. Bible Study & Confirmation 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Family Promise Week First Day of Autumn	Pastor out of office 30 Church Office Open 9am-3pm 7 p.m. Back to Basics - Parish Hall	Pastor out of office	Pastor out of office	Pastor out of office	Pastor out of office	Pastor out of office
29 8:30 a.m. Rise Worship 9:45 a.m. Bible Study & Confirmation 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Pastor out of office	Pastor out of office	Pastor out of office	Pastor out of office	Pastor out of office	Pastor out of office	Pastor out of office