



In the Turning Leaves of October

Rev. Dr. Ralen M. Robinson

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. " - Isaiah 43:19

October has always been a season of holy color for me. The trees blaze with red and gold, the air sharpens, and the world feels alive with change. It was in this very season on Reformation Sunday that I accepted God's call and was ordained at Holy Communion Lutheran Church in Philly, beginning this journey of ministry five years ago.

I remember feeling a myriad of emotions, both anxious and excited all at once. The future felt unknown, and yet I knew God's Spirit was moving, calling me forward, even when I wasn't sure what each step would hold. Like Martin Luther so many centuries ago, I was trusting in God's grace to carry me, leaning into the promise that Christ alone is our foundation.

The Reformation reminds us that the church is always being renewed, always being reshaped by God's Spirit. In many ways, my ordination was my own re-formation God turning me, stretching me, and sending me into a future that I could not yet see but could only enter with trust. It leaves me to ask: How are you being re-shaped this season? How are you being stretched and molded? How is God using you to reform the church? While the church does not look like it did in Martin Luther's time, the promise of grace and God's love remain untouched and true.

"When you send forth your spirit, [a] they are created, and you renew the face of the ground. "

-Psalm 104: 30

Each October, as the colors of the season return, so too do these memories. The brilliant leaves remind me that God is always at work transforming us, sweeping us into renewal, painting our lives with mercy, and calling us into new ways of sharing Christ's love. We see this in our annual Trunk or Treat event the afternoon of October 26th. Trunk or treat carries that same Spirit. When we open our church to children in costumes and neighbors, we proclaim with joy that God's love is for everyone, in every place, whether under a steeple or in a parking lot filled with laughter and candy. God's love is present here and now.

This October, as I look back on my own call, I invite you to reflect on how God has been at work in your life too, in moments of excitement, in seasons of anxiety, and even in times when the future felt unknown. Through it all, God's promise remains the same: you are loved, you are held, and you are being renewed in grace each day.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

CAROL & MELISSA NIX



She is a Midwest girl, a term that reflects her strong ties to the Midwestern culture and values, and a Lutheran chick at heart, which signifies her deep-rooted faith in the Lutheran tradition. Born the only child of Michael and Carol and baptized in Grand Island, NE, 1971, the family moved to Freeport, IL, where she graduated from high school as a bona fide Pretzel (the school mascot!!) Her father, Michael, passed away from cancer during her Junior year of high school.

Melissa attended the University of Iowa, where she studied Political Science. She stayed in Iowa City taking a summer job that then turned into a career in the hotel and events sector of the hospitality industry. After a successful career in the hotel and events sector of the hospitality industry. She is currently seeking opportunities in accounting or management in the business sector. In the meantime, she works part-time at In Trust Bank Arena.

Melissa is single and doesn't have any children. She had a partner, Chad Myers, whom she re-connected with via Facebook, in her life in 2019-2020. But he became terminally ill and passed away in April of 2020. It has taken her these past five years to really deal with his loss and reorient her life again!

Melissa's love for music is a significant part of her life. She has been a member of choirs and handbell choirs throughout her life. She was a member of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League at Holy Cross. Her active participation in the church choir is a testament to the joy and solace she finds in music.

Melissa's loves reading, watching TV & movies, and listening to NPR. She's a political nerd, to the chagrin of her mother, LOL. They enjoy traveling and both agree their favorite place is Hawaii!

No pets currently, but they live in a neighborhood full of dogs, so she gets her fix that way, along with an occasional dog-sitting gig!

Favorite Movie is You've Got Mail; favorite food is pizza or King Crab; her favorite TV show is probably Grey's Anatomy, and favorite radio program is Wait, Wait, Don't Tell Me!!!

As a cradle Lutheran, Melissa prefers the structure and familiarity of traditional services, She finds it challenging to sing or try to sing songs she doesn't know the music to, which is why she appreciates the publication of music in traditional services.

She says the only other thing Reformation should know about her is that she's happy to join; everyone has been very friendly and welcoming; and she feels this will be a better fit with her beliefs. She says God led them right across the street!!! LOL They live at The Heritage community, almost directly across Rock Road.

upcoming events

Notable Church Events

October 4	Blessing of the Pets, 3 p.m. Meditation Garden
October 12	Stewardship Sunday
October 15	Youth Group on Wednesday 6 p.m.
October 20	B.T.O.L. Noon
October 26	Reformation Sunday—Trunk or Treat 3:30-5 p.m.
November 9	Semi-annual Meeting 10am

Other Special Dates in October

- World Communion Sunday, *October 5, 2025*
- Pastor/Clergy Appreciation Sunday, *October 12, 2025*
- Indigenous Peoples Day, *October 13, 2025*
- Reformation Day, *October 31, 2025*



Looking for Ways to Get Involved

Reformation offers a variety of ministries dedicated to sharing God's Word and serving our community. As we celebrate Stewardship Sunday, it's 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 reassess your commitment and consider getting involved. Below, you'll find a list of our boards and ministries where your time and talents can make a difference.

Worship Board
In-Reach Board
Outreach Board
Fellowship Board
Learning Board
Property Board
Finance Board

oversees weekly worship services
if you have a heart for caregiving this board is for you
oversees our social media presence and new members
coordinates coffee hour between services and other special events
oversees Sunday School, Confirmation and Youth & Adult Learning
oversees our building and property upkeep
oversees the stewardship of our congregation. If you have an interest in finance this may be for you.

Service Board

oversees activities that make a difference in our community; i.e. Bags of Blessings Coleman Middle School, etc.

There are also the following ministries which serve our congregation:

Stephen Ministry
B.T.O.L.

if you need someone to talk to in confidence.
for everyone over 55. A monthly gathering for socialization and education.

Dorcas Circle
Rebecca Circle
Homebound Communion
Blanket Makers

meets monthly to discuss and learn about the Bible
meets monthly for guided study of the books of the Bible
delivers communion once a month to the homebound
meets every Tuesday morning to quilt and have fellowship

Growing in Faith & Fellowship

Wednesday in the Word



Explore Scripture and grow in faith every Wednesday at 12:00 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. Whether you join at lunch or in the evening, all are welcome to dive into God's Word, ask questions, and connect with our community.

Ladies Night Out



Mark your calendars for Tuesday, October 14th at 6:30 p.m. We will be dining at Il Vicino, Bradley Fair. Join us for a fun evening of fellowship and good food! To RSVP, contact Lynetta Wetta at 316-208-5594

BTOL (Best Time of Life) Potluck



Join us for BTOL (Best Time of Life) potluck on Monday, **October 20th** at noon for great food, fun and fellowship. **Tiger Han from Justice Together** will be joining us to share both his very interesting life story along with his spiritual journey. This is a “don't miss” gathering, both for his amazing presentation and the authentic Chinese fried rice he plans to bring.

Food Cart



In October, the air is full of harvest aromas, so this month's challenge for the Open Door Food Pantry is **fruit!** Cranberries, applesauce, peaches, pears, fruit juice, or and the list goes on and on. Canned, dried, juiced, individual servings—whatever you can place in the grocery cart in the Narthex!

Endowment Fund



Time is running out to request a grant from our Endowment Fund! Support is available for ministries, programs, or projects that strengthen the church's mission, including outreach, education, and faith-based nonprofits.

Forms are available in the office or by emailing info@refluthks.org. Return completed applications by **October 15th** for the Endowment Committee's review.



TRIVIA NIGHT FUNDRAISER

Falcon Fellowship is hosting their 9th **Trivia Night Fundraiser** on **Saturday, October 18, 2025**. This event will be held at Christ Lutheran Church, across the street from **Wichita Heights High School**. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and trivia will begin at 7 p.m. The cost is \$120

for teams of eight people, or \$15 per individual (who will be placed in potluck teams). The price of admission includes a fun-filled night of trivia and laughs, soda, water, and table snacks. Please feel free to bring your own snacks, but please no alcohol. **Registration forms are available in the church office.**



Dress For Success

We will be collecting gently used garments for the Dress For Success program. Please bring your clothing to the Parish Hall from **October 20th to October 27th**. We will be sorting clothes on

Monday, October 27th. The mission of Dress for Success Wichita is to empower women to achieve economic independence by providing a network of support, professional attire, and development tools that help women thrive in their careers and in life.

Items needed:

Women's only, clean, good condition: Suits, shoes, dresses, handbags, jackets, scarves, skirts, gloves, slacks, jewelry, blouses, and jeans (no holes).



We in Stephen Ministry are ready and willing to serve you as a confidential listener and companion as you encounter the rough edges of life. We each have been extensively trained. We meet regularly to keep one another on target and excited for this ministry we love. Our current active Stephen Ministers include Larry Erlich, Lotus Gerards, Sheri Ryding, David Dorf and Anita Dorf. If you would like more information, please contact any of us or Pastor Ralen. Thank you for the honor of accompanying you in your journeys.

Christmas Memories Luncheon

Saturday, December 6, 2025

Social with appetizers 11:30-Catered lunch at noon

\$20.00 per person



Christmas Memories Join us for our Christmas Memories Luncheon on **Saturday, December 6th**. We're having a fun Christmas show-and-tell, taking a trip down memory lane together. Bring along a photo or a keepsake (both optional) that reminds you of a favorite holiday memory and share it with the group. A sign-up sheet is located in the narthex. Be sure to add your name so we know you'll be joining us!



Deck the Tables

We are looking for volunteers to help make our Christmas luncheon extra festive by decorating a table with your own Christmas decorations. This is a fun way to share your holiday style and creativity with everyone. You bring the decorations and we will provide the tableware. Please contact Carol Weaver for more information.



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

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



Let Us Welcome Kaetlyn to the Reformation Family

Kaetlyn is a native Kansan, born and raised in Salina. She grew up in the Catholic faith and attended Sacred Heart High School. After graduation, she moved to Lindsborg to study at Bethany College, where she was first introduced to the Lutheran tradition. Following her freshman year, she spent a summer serving as a counselor at Camp Tomah Shinga, a place she continues to return to as a volunteer throughout the year.

Kaetlyn graduated from Bethany with a degree in Biology and went on to earn her license as a Physical Therapist Assistant from Hutchinson Community College. This past February, she relocated to Wichita with her dog, Tucker, to start a full-time position as a PTA at an outpatient clinic. In her free time, Kaetlyn enjoys walking Tucker, reading, and learning to play tennis with her boyfriend, who coaches at

Pratt Community College. She also loves exploring Wichita's restaurants, coffee shops, and walking clubs.

Kaetlyn is excited to build her church family here in Wichita—teaching Sunday School at Christ Lutheran and serving as our Youth and Family Director at Reformation. Join us in welcoming **Kaetlyn Newell**, who begins with Reformation on **October 5th**! Kaetlyn will help strengthen our youth programs and engage with our young people. I look forward to seeing you at Youth Group on Wednesday, **October 15th at 6 p.m.**

Meet Martin Luther at the Rise Service!



Join us this Reformation Sunday for our Rise Service, where you'll "meet" Martin Luther and discover why, over 500 years ago, the church was reformed. A fun and meaningful way for the whole family to learn and celebrate together!



This month is Pastor Appreciation Month. It is also the anniversary of Pastor Ralen's ordination.



Special Guest: Camp Director Jordan Valentine

We're excited to welcome Camp Director **Jordan Valentine** this Reformation Sunday at our Rise Service! She'll bring the joy of Camp Tomah Shinga to worship and help us see how the Reformation spirit still shapes the church today, connecting the energy of camp with the heart of being a Reformed church.



Musical Melodies

Get ready to *blare in the Reformation*! On **Sunday, October 26th**, our Traditional 11:00 a.m. service will feature a local Wichita Brass Quintet.

Their powerful and joyful music will lift our hearts in celebration as we mark this Reformation season together.



IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Prayer Ministry at Reformation Lutheran Church

Robert Leake	10/1
Hillary Martin	10/1
Abby Davis	10/2
Samuel Johnson	10/3
Kalynn Blum	10/4
Pam Buxton	10/5
Quinn Torgerson	10/7
Eva Whetstone	10/8
Cora Burgoyne	10/8
Teven Wendt	10/8
Erin Brown	10/13
Janice Barr	10/14
Kylie Stupka	10/14
Shari Ryding	10/18
Douglas Brantner	10/20
Cory Shackelford	10/20
Nicholas Flores	10/21
Ryan Long	10/25
Mark Yeskie	10/28
Dori Benton	10/29
Raymond Drake	10/29
Susan Martin	10/29
Grace McFarlane	10/29
Andrew Davis	10/30
Melissa Rindt	10/31

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:

Kourtney Franke

Sheila Carlson

Kenn Woodard

Marcia Werts

Ed Wilks

Mark Hobart

Carole Lyons-Osborne

Marilyn Allbritten

Robert Pfeiffer

Annette Carson

Shirley Metz

Tom McFarlane

Larry Allbritten

Waldo Gerards

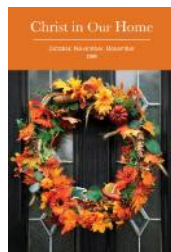
Raymond Drake

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



Only 3 Sundays open for Altar Flowers!

Don't miss your chance to brighten the altar and then bring the flowers home to beautify your space after worship! Sign up for one of the last available dates: Nov 23rd | Nov 30th | Dec 7th.



Christ in Your Home

Pick up the latest edition in the narthex.

It offers meditations to help you reflect on God's wonders.

Take a copy home with you!

Living
Lutheran

Have You Received Your Fall 2025 Edition of Living Lutheran? Be sure to check out page 22-23, you'll find the article "What Needs Reforming Today?" written by our very own Pastor! It's a thoughtful and timely reflection you won't want to miss.



September 2025 Council Recap

Special thank you to the Learning Board and Service Board for a successful and fun Rally Day. We are excited about the addition of the Youth Director. We will once again be hosting the VA Last Roll Call on November 15th at 10 a.m.

Financial Snapshot:

Our expenses continue to be managed well and are being kept in line with our budget. August saw a strong giving month to close out the summer season! Your support is greatly appreciated. While we have seen strong giving over the year, we have dipped slightly behind last year, and continue to fall behind our conservatively developed budget, \$21,100. We have made things work within the financial parameters that are established but could use some extra influx of funds to make sure we can properly take care of the wonderful resources we have. We ask members to prayerfully consider their financial support as we continue to carry out the mission of Reformation Lutheran Church.



This Rally Day, we joyfully closed our summer worship and celebrated God's Work, Our Hands, alongside the kickoff of our fall ministries. Confetti rained down, swirling across the sanctuary, lifting us into a spirit of kindness and reminding us to share



God's love with one another. We are called this season to be generous and caring, reflecting God's heart in all we do. A special thank you goes out to everyone who donated to the Coleman School Drive. Your generosity is a beautiful example of living out God's love in our community.



CANTORS for Traditional Services. We are wanting to expand our list of available cantors for the 11a.m. service. You only need to be in the loft for the first part of the service, then can join your family in the pews. If you would like to offer your voice, contact Marcia



Indoor Trunk or Treat Reformation Lutheran Church Sunday October 26th, 2025: 3:30-5 p.m.

Join us for a family fun evening of trick or treating, Halloween bingo, games, prizes, and fun costumes! Fun starts at 3:30pm and will run until 5 p.m. If you would like to set up a table in the Parrish Hall, please look for a sign-up sheet in the Narthex to sponsor a table. Please bring treats of any kind, games, activities, and your spookiest Halloween decorations for all to see. If you would like to donate prizes of any kind for our Halloween games, you can drop these off in the church office by Sunday, October 19th. All are welcome- please bring family, friends, and neighbors!

October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 10 a.m. Pastor Office Hours Noon & 6:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Word	2 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 6 p.m. Learning Board 7 p.m. Fellowship	3 Church Office Closed	4
5 8:30 a.m. Rise Worship 9:45 a.m. Learning for all ages 11 a.m. Traditional Worship	6 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 7 p.m. Back to Basics	7 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 9 a.m. Blanket Makers 9 a.m. Pastor Office Hours 6 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7 p.m. Bell Ringers Practice	8 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 10 a.m. Pastor Office Hours Noon & 6:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Word	9 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 10 a.m. Rebecca Circle 6 p.m. Worship Board 6:30 p.m. Justice Together	10 Church Office Closed	11 3 p.m. Blessing of the Pets
World Communion Sunday						
12 Stewardship Sunday 8:30 a.m. Rise Worship 9:45 a.m. Learning for all ages 11 a.m. Traditional Worship	13 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 11 a.m. In-Reach 7 p.m. Back to Basics	14 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	15 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. <i>Ref Life Deadline</i> <i>Endowment Fund Request Deadline</i> 10 a.m. Pastor Office Hours Noon & 6:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Word 1 p.m. Dorcas Circle 6 p.m. Youth Group	16 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m.	17 Church Office Closed	18 7 a.m. St. Paul's Community Breakfast
Pastor Appreciation Sunday	Indigenous People Day					
19 8:30 a.m. Rise Worship 9:45 a.m. Learning for all ages 11 a.m. Traditional Worship	20 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 12 p.m. B.T.O.L 7 p.m. Back to Basics	21 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 9 a.m. Blanket Makers 9 a.m. Pastor Office Hours 6 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7 p.m. Bell Ringers Practice 7 p.m. Church Council	22 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 10 a.m. Pastor Office Hours 9 a.m. Lifeline Screening Noon & 6:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Word	23 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m.	24 Church Office Closed	25
	Dress For Success collection begins					
26 Reformation Sunday 8:30 a.m. Rise Worship 9:45 a.m. Learning for all ages 11 a.m. Traditional Worship 3:30 p.m.-5 p.m. Trunk or Treat	27 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 11 a.m. Assistance League 7 p.m. Back to Basics	28 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 9 a.m. Blanket Makers 9 a.m. Pastor Office Hours 6 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7 p.m. Bell Ringers Practice	29 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 10 a.m. Pastor Office Hours Noon & 6:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Word	30 Office Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m.	31 Church Office Closed	1 Early voting Halloween
Dress For Success collection ends				Early voting		

REFORMATION YOUTH IN THE Spotlight

We're excited to celebrate the amazing journeys, growth, and adventures our young people experience this fall! From unforgettable school moments and inspiring service projects to personal milestones, new friendships, sports, and school plays this is their space to shine!



Gracie is having a blast this fall with tennis, cheer, piano, and the school musical — *Beetlejuice Jr!* She's loving the energy of the stage and can't wait to perform.

Mark your calendars for October 23rd & 25th at 7p.m.— it's going to be a fun show!

Lena is all smiles this season with cheer, soccer, piano, and girls' choir, all through school. She's shining in everything she does and is already looking forward to being part of the spring musical!



Brynn and Emerson are spreading school spirit this fall as part of the cheer team, while Thatcher is hitting the field playing football this season!



Cole Torgerson, along with her junior class decked out in silver, was perfectly coordinated—because they brought home silver at the 59th Annual Trojan Event at Andover High School!

SPOT- LIGHT ON...



Cora and Eli are both on the field this season—Eli is holding it down in the infield for Fall Ball, while Cora is running strong in cross country. And when they're not competing, you'll find them both shining in band!



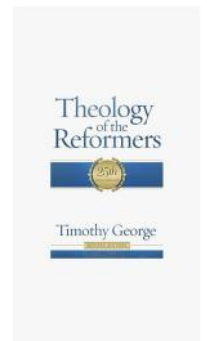
Micah has begun the service part of his ELCA YAGM mission at a migrant center in Mexico City and will periodically send out newsletters describing his experiences. If you wish to receive the newsletter, please send your email address and name. If you have any questions, ask Ken Hobart or Marcia Werts. Micah thanks you for your support!



October Book Recommendations

Theology of the Reformers by Timothy George

Looking for a deeper dive into our Reformation roots? Timothy George's *Theology of the Reformers* offers an accessible look at Luther, Calvin, Zwingli, and other key leaders showing how their teachings continue to shape our faith today. A perfect read as we approach Reformation Sunday!



Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther by Roland Bainton

Roland Bainton's classic biography *Here I Stand* brings Martin Luther's story to life with vivid detail and engaging storytelling. It's an accessible and inspiring way to revisit the heart of the Reformation and the bold faith that changed the church forever.