



Gratitude in the Midst of Grace

Rev. Dr. Ralen M. Robinson

As November rolls in, I can't help but think about home the smell of turkey roasting, golden sunlight spilling across familiar walls, and the laughter that fills rooms full of memories. This year is especially meaningful for me, because for the first time in over five years, I'll be home for Thanksgiving. I'm beyond grateful for the chance to spend time with my mom, my sister, and my nephew, to sit around our family table, and just be in the house that shaped so much of who I am.

Gratitude, though, isn't only about comfort and familiarity. Scripture reminds us that thanksgiving is at the heart of our faith not because life is always easy, but because God's grace carries us even in the tough seasons. As 1 Thessalonians 5:18 says, *"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."* True thanksgiving notices God's presence, even when life feels heavy, and helps us see the ordinary moments that are quietly filled with grace.

That perspective can transform the way we experience the world. It's in a child's laugh, the soft morning light streaming through a window, the chatter around a table that has held generations of love. Every blessing, big or small, is a gift from God, shaping our faith and giving us hope.

As I think about the week ahead family, home, and tradition I'm reminded that thanksgiving isn't just about food or festivities. It's about noticing God's abundant grace in every corner of our lives. It's about being fully present with the people who matter most and letting gratitude shape how we see the world. Even when life feels uncertain, we are held, loved, and blessed.

Psalms 107:1 reminds us, *"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."* Gratitude is a way of seeing and acknowledging that enduring love, even when life doesn't go as planned. It invites us to notice ordinary moments as sacred, fleeting joys as signs of God's presence.

This Thanksgiving, I encourage you to look for those gifts around you the warmth of family, the comfort of friends, the quiet moments that carry grace in unexpected ways. I'm heading home filled with gratitude for my family, for tradition, and for God's sustaining presence in my life.

May your Thanksgiving be rich with blessings, overflowing with grace, and filled with the reminder that God's love endures forever. It is seen in laughter, reflection, warm meals, and hearts full of thanks.



upcoming events

Notable Church Events

November	2	All Saints Sunday / Day Light Savings
November	9	Semi-annual Meeting 10:00am
November	15	VA Roll Call Event
November	16	Intergenerational Learning Hour
November	24-28	Church Office Closed
November	27	Thanksgiving Day
November	30	First Sunday of Advent
December	3	First Mid-Week Advent Service 6:30pm
December	6	Christmas Memories Luncheon 11:30am



Stephen Ministry: The Courage to Receive Care

Many of us find it easier to give care than to receive it. Giving care can feel empowering, while receiving it often makes us feel vulnerable. Society encourages self-reliance—but God calls us to something different: **interdependence**.

From Genesis to the New Testament, Scripture emphasizes the importance of caring for **one another**—loving, encouraging, praying for, and building each other up. That includes allowing **others to care for us**, too.

Asking for help is hard. Shame, fear, or pride can make us want to suffer alone. But God never intended for us to carry our burdens by ourselves. Jesus invites us:

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” – Matthew 11:28

Our **Stephen Ministers** understand this. Many have received care themselves and now offer that same compassionate, confidential support to others. They are trained and ready to walk alongside you in difficult seasons—listening, encouraging, and reminding you of God’s love.

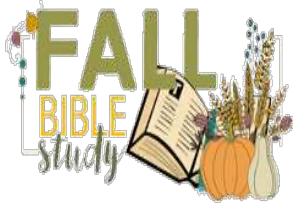
If you're going through a tough time, don't stay silent. Take a courageous step and let someone walk with you. God may use that relationship to bring the comfort and healing your heart longs for.

Interested in learning more?

Talk to Pastor Ralen, or contact Anita Dorf

Growing in Faith & Fellowship

Wednesday in the Word



Join us every **Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.** this fall as we journey through the epistles of the Bible. This is a great opportunity to deepen your understanding of Scripture and grow in community with others.

All are welcome! Bring your Bible and a heart ready to learn!

Please note: We will take a break during Thanksgiving week (November 23rd).

Food Cart



Holidays are synonymous with baking and building memories. This month help make the season special for someone else by donating **baking supplies** to the Open-Door Food Pantry. Helpful hints: flour, sugar, baking soda, salt, vanilla, chocolate chips, pumpkin decorative sugars and the list goes on and on. These items will help a family with limited to no resources bake for the holidays for their families. Thank you for your generosity.



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.

St. Paul's Closing Service

It is with a heavy heart that we invite you to St. Paul's Lutheran Church on November 22nd at 3:00pm when they will be conducting a closing service as they vacate their current building.

Endowment Fund Awards



This fall the endowment committee has awarded the following organizations with grant money to support their missions.

Fall 2025 Mission Endowment recipients are as follows:

1. Camp Tomah Shinga
2. Christ Lutheran - Wichita
3. St John Lutheran - Pittsburg, KS
4. International Rescue Committee

Ladies Night Out



Mark your calendars for Monday, **November 10th at 6:30 p.m.** We will be dining at the Bricktown Brewery, Join us for a fun evening of fellowship and good food!

Potluck and Holiday Decorating

Sunday, December 7, 2025

12:00pm—4:00pm (or when tasks are complete)



Decorate the Church

Join us for a time of fellowship and celebration as we eat together before launching into decorating our church for the Christmas Holiday Season, expect chatter and laughter all while listening to joyful holiday tunes. Be sure to add your name to the signup so we know you'll be joining in!

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.

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



If you want more information about membership at Reformation, contact Rev. Ralen Robinson at revralen@gmail.com or info@refluthks.org

November 2025 Council Recap

This month we approved membership for 3 more individuals – more information to come as they complete their meetings with Pastor. We are bringing aboard 2 interns to help in our A/V booth.

We will once again be hosting the VA Last Roll Call on November 15th. This is a VA event, they do all the prep and onsite work (except the sound system) and we are a convenient facility for them to be able to host this wonderful tribute to our Vets.

Financial Snapshot:

Our expenses continue to be managed well and are being kept as close to our budget as possible, however we have now eased over our budgeted expenses by \$2,543. 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, we are now at a deficit of \$22,225. Fortunately, we have been able 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. Although September saw a strong giving month to start this last quarter of the year we ask members to prayerfully consider their financial support as we continue to carry out the mission of Reformation Lutheran Church.

All Saints Sunday Reflection

On this day, we remember and celebrate the saints those who have gone before us in faith and those who walk beside us still. Their lives remind us that God's love is steadfast, passing from one generation to the next. All Saints Sunday invites us to honor the courage, compassion, and faithfulness of those who have shaped our journey and to recognize the ways we, too, are called to live as witnesses of God's grace. In remembering them, we are inspired to carry their light into the world.



Audiobook Recommendation

The Lonely Search for God by Henri Nouwen

“In our loneliness, we find the God who never leaves us alone.”

Henri Nouwen has a beautiful way of naming what so many of us quietly feel: a deep longing to be seen, known, and connected with God. In *The Lonely Search for God*, he speaks honestly about loneliness, faith, and the hope that even in our most isolated moments, God is present and near.

Listening to this audiobook feels like sitting with a wise, gentle friend who helps you see that our loneliness can actually become a doorway to deeper love, both divine and human.

If you're looking for something thoughtful and soul-stirring to listen to on a walk, drive, or quiet evening, this one's worth adding to your list.

Internship Partnership

This fall, we've partnered with Wichita State University to create an audio internship program. This collaboration allows students to develop their skills and talents in audio production while helping us enhance our visual and streaming capabilities. We're excited to welcome Nancy and Sam to our AV ministry this fall and winter!



Christ in Your Home

Pick up the latest edition in the narthex.



Prayer Ministry at Reformation Lutheran Church

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	Robert
Sheila	Annette
Kenn	Shirley
Marcia	Tom
Ed	Larry
Mark	Waldo
Carole	Raymond
Marilyn	

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



While Pastor is away spending Thanksgiving with her family, we are grateful for the wonderful leadership within our congregation. A heartfelt thank-you to Rev. Cheryl Hoops and

Deacon Joanne Hickey, who will be leading worship on Sundays, November 30 and December 7, in her absence. For any pastoral emergencies please contact Rev. Cheryl Hoops

November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Early Voting
2 8:30am Rise Worship 11:00am Traditional Worship	3 Church Office Open 9am- Noon 6:00pm PEO Meeting 7:00pm Back to Basics	4 Church Office Open 9am- Noon 7:00am Voting 9:00am Blanket Makers 9:00am Pastor Office Hours 5:30pm Bell Choir Practice 7:00pm Reformation Singers	5 Church Office Open 9am- Noon 10:00am Pastor Office Hours 6:30pm Weds. In The Word	6 6:00pm Worship Board 7:00pm Fellowship	7 Church Office Closed	8
9 8:30am Rise Worship 10:00am Semi Annual Meeting 11:00am Traditional Worship	10 Church Office Open 9am- Noon 6:30pm Ladies Night Out 7:00pm Back to Basics	11 Church Office Open 9am- Noon 9:00am Blanket Makers 9:00am Pastor Office Hours 5:30pm Bell Choir Practice 7:00pm Reformation Singers	12 Church Office Open 9am- Noon 10:00am Pastor Office Hours 10:30am In Reach 6:30pm Weds. In The Word	13 10:00am Rebecca Circle - Conference Room	14 Church Office Closed	15 <i>Ref Life Deadlines</i> 7:00am St. Paul's Community Breakfast 10:00am VA Roll Call Event
16 8:30am Rise Worship 11:00am Traditional Worship	17 Church Office Open 9am- Noon 11:00am Assistance League 7:00pm Back to Basics	18 Church Office Open 9am- Noon 9:00am Blanket Makers 9:00am Pastor Office Hours 5:30pm Bell Choir Practice 7:00pm Church Council 7:00pm Reformation Singers	19 Church Office Open 9am- Noon 10:00am Pastor Office Hours 1:00pm Dorcas Circle 6:30pm Weds. In The Word	20	21 Church Office Closed	22 3:00pm St. Paul's Closing Service
23 8:30am Rise Worship 11:00am Traditional Worship	24 Church Office Closed 7:00pm Back to Basics	25 Church Office Closed 9:00am Blanket Makers	26 Church Office Closed	27 Thanksgiving Day	28 Church Office Closed	29
30 8:30am Rise Worship 11:00am Traditional Worship						