

The Reformer

Lawyersville and Sharon Reformed Churches 179

Mission Statement: As disciples of Christ, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to join together to worship God, to study his Word, and use our gifts to extend God's grace and love to others.

MARCH 2017

What's Inside:

Interim Pastor's Page
Church Review
Calendar of Events
Children's Fun Page
Birthdays-Anniversaries



LRC - Church Service

9:00 A.M.

**Sunday School
following worship**

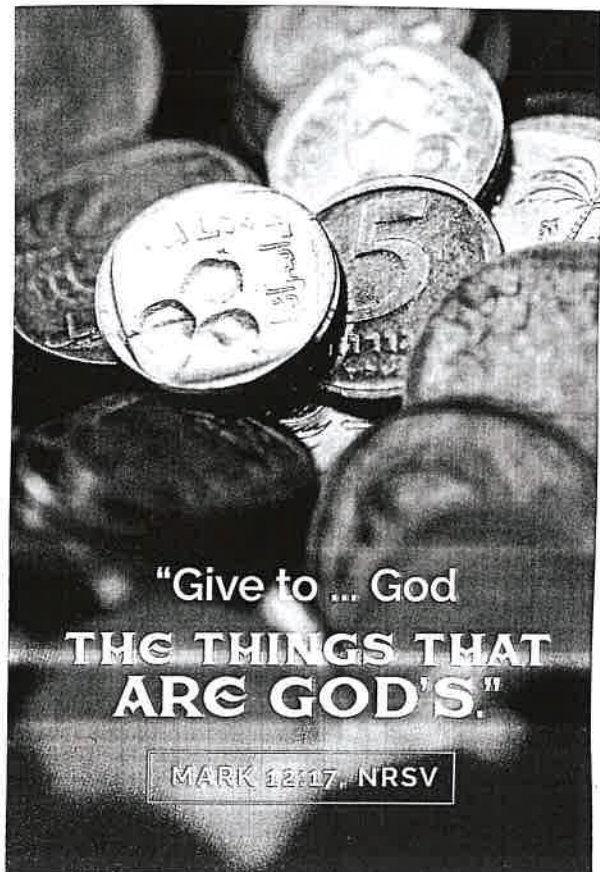
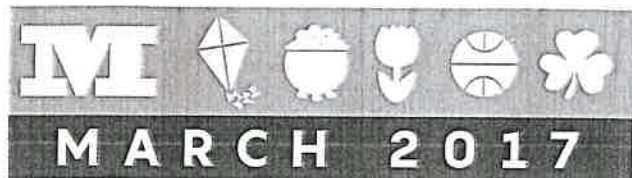
SRC - Church Service

11:00 A.M.

Sunday School

9:30 A.M.

Rev. Paul Ferenczy



Special dates

- Ash Wednesday, *March 1, 2017*
- World Day of Prayer, *March 3, 2017*
- First Sunday in Lent, *March 5, 2017*
- Second Sunday in Lent, *March 12, 2017*
- Daylight-Saving Time begins, *March 12, 2017*
- Girl Scout Sunday, *March 12, 2017*
- Third Sunday in Lent, *March 19, 2017*
- First day of spring, *March 20, 2017*
- Fourth Sunday in Lent, *March 26, 2017*

Lent.....what's lent?

I'll never forget that question. It was asked by a seminary student with whom I graduated. He was from an area in the south where they never observed the season of lent, so when we began discussing it in our class on The Liturgy and the Lexicon he was totally confused. You must also understand that with his southern accent and understanding he often heard something quite different from what was being said. In his typical southern drawl, came his question: "Leeent? Leeent? What's this leeent stuff y'all are talkin about? Isn't that somethin' you pick out of your belly button?"

Lent means different things to different people. To some it will mark the end of revelry and wild parties. For others it is the beginning of a very somber, serious and somewhat gloomy time of the year when they actually wear clothes that signify repentance and remorse. For others it is a time to make changes in their life style, perhaps, making some sacrifices for the Lord. Then there will be those who will pay no attention to it at all. What is lent for you?

Having been born in a parsonage, raised in the parsonage and living most of my life in one, becoming a home-owner was a rather enlightening experience. I slowly learned quite a bit about the responsibility that carries. I noticed that things tend to deteriorate and wear out and if you do not replace, repair, or tend to what needs your attention, the deterioration grows worse and may even become irreparable. But if one take the time to check up on the condition of the house, and dedicate some time, effort and resources to maintaining it, you can save yourself a lot of trouble and grief.

Jesus used the example of a house when he spoke about the human spirit. We need to take care of this spiritual house in which we live. Lent can be a time when we go around and check out the condition of our own soul. What needs repair? Which part needs a whole new make-over? Where are the places where there has been some decay and deterioration? What are the areas in your own soul to which you need to give special attention? What commitments do you need to make by taking the time, giving the effort, and expending the resources to make sure your soul is in good order?

On one of my home-inspections, I found that I needed a new electric service. The old one was outdated and beginning to deteriorate into an unsafe condition. I got all the necessary work done and paid the bill. I thought that would be the end of it, but it wasn't. The inspector had to come and give his OK to the project. It reminded me that one day, the Building Inspector will come to check out all the spiritual houses that have been built. Lent should be a good time to get them in good working order.

Pastor Paul Ferenczy



Prayer Requests

Church

Jean Wormuth/home

Muriel Homes/St. Johnsville Nursing Home

Jan Liberti/chemo treatments continue

Lois/Lola's sister/A-Fib/Pace maker

Family/Loved Ones

Batchler girls adjusting well from their accident and loss of their parents.

Ava Baker/2 year old/brain tumor

Nelson Castro/bone cancer

George Eiholzer/aggressive facial esophageal cancer

Linda Slater/cancer

Prayers for the Kablean Family

Donald Bennett/cancer

Rehberg Family/health issues

Nadine/diabetes complications

Joan Palmer's brother/tests

Those homebound/in nursing homes:

Helen Holmes (LRC)

153 Hansen Rd.

Cherry Valley, NY 13320

Josephine King (SRC)

Willkinson Nursing Home

498 State Highway 30

Amsterdam, N.Y. 12010

Richard Nirschl (SRC)

St. Johnsville Nursing Home

7 Timmerman Ave.

St. Johnsville, NY 13452

Muriel Holmes (LRC)

St. Johnsville Nursing Home

7 Timmerman Ave.

St. Johnsville, NY 13452

Community

All Teachers and students

Family situations impacting students' performances in school

Grand-parents serving as guardians for their grandchildren

All families impacted by alcoholism and/or substance abuse

Increased heroin addiction in our county

All families and marriages in crisis

All children suffering from physical, emotional and/or sexual abuse

All God's children impacted by hunger and food insecurity

All soldiers (esp. those deployed) and their families

Nation and World

Crisis of refugees and migrants

Extremists' intolerance and violence

Persecuted Christians

The global economy

All unrest in God's world

Local, state national and world leaders

Peacemaker groups

Healing from election results/coming together as a great nation

Please let me know of any updates or additions so we can direct our prayers to them.

*Josephine King is in a nursing home in Amsterdam. I'm sure she would like cards and visits. Her address is listed on this page. Report is that she is adjusting well.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

MARCH

- 12 Antoinette Clegg
- 18 Janice Van Aller
- 21 Jill Cullen
- 22 Holden Davenport



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

MARCH

- 18 Karl & Rena Cooper



"It's titled 'Call for Volunteers.'"



GOD IS CONTROL

The key of the day

Prayer should be the key of the day and the lock of the night.

Willing to worship

Lamentation is a powerful, and meaningful, form of worship because it places our love for God above even the worst of circumstances in our life. ... God does not ask us to deny the existence of our suffering. He does want us to collect it, stand in those things and make him an offering.

The Holy Spirit, our Comforter, helps us to do this: He aligns himself with our will and says, "I will help you to will to worship God." The glory of the majesty of God is that he helps us will and do.

—Graham Cooke

Wonder of wonders

The world is filled with wonders, writes Nathaniel Olson. Consider chemistry: Salt is formed by two poisonous substances (sodium and chlorine). The alnico magnet, the world's strongest, contains three nonmagnetic substances (aluminum, nickel and cobalt). And water consists of oxygen (which is flammable) and hydrogen (which burns easily); yet water puts out fires!

That pales in comparison to the wonder of salvation through Jesus. Every day, Olson writes, Jesus transforms filthy, hopeless sinners into new, forgiven creations. "On the skid rows of our cities, in wealthy and poor homes, in jungles ... whenever any soul wants Christ, the wonder of the new birth is taking place."

Our God is the true Wonder of wonders. "None can compare" (Psalm 40:5).

Food donations

Thank you to all who contribute donations of Food for the Food Pantry, held at the Baptist Church. We know, due to the economy, that there is an increase in requests. Some who have donated in the past find themselves in need of help. Please continue to give as you are able. Thank you for participating in this ministry of care. First Sunday of each month.



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Editor: Lola Fletcher, 756 Loonenbergh TPK., Sharon Springs, NY 13459.
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Deadline: March 22nd. Thanks to all for your information and contributions.

MEMO BOARD

March

1

**Ash Wednesday Service @ LRC @ 7:00 P.M.
All Welcome**

5

**Lenten Communion Service @ LRC & SRC
LRC Worship 9:00 A.M.**

5,12,19,26

Coffee hour following church

SRC Sunday School for all ages 9:30 A.M.

SRC Worship 11:00 A.M.

Coffee hour following church

12

Daylight Savings Time - Turn clocks ahead one hour

16

LRC Consistory @ 5:15 P.M.

True friendship

A true friend knows your weaknesses but shows you your strengths; feels your fears but fortifies your faith; sees your anxieties but frees your spirit; recognizes your disabilities but emphasizes your possibilities.

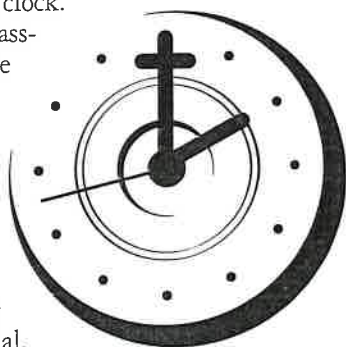
—William Arthur Ward





God's hands

Our life is like the dial of a clock. The hands are God's hands, passing over and over again — the short hand of discipline and the long hand of mercy. Slowly and surely, the hand of discipline must pass, and God speaks at each strike. But over and over passes the hand of mercy, showering down sixtyfold of blessing for each stroke of discipline or trial. And both hands are fastened to one secure point: the great, unchanging heart of a God of love.



—Virginia Brandt Berg

A different beautiful

Brenna Westlake, now 5, was born with a condition that makes her skin grow too fast, become thick and inflexible, and look red and scaly. While managing Brenna's complex care and helping her master developmental milestones, her parents have made new discoveries about beauty.

"Sometimes the most beautiful things ... come from the unexpected parts of life that encourage us to search a little harder to find where the beauty lies — to put aside preconceived notions about what beautiful is and what it isn't," writes Courtney Westlake in *A Different Beautiful* (Shiloh Run Press).

"There is a different beautiful than the perfection our culture often worships. That beautiful is found not when we open our eyes but rather when we open our hearts. That different beautiful is found in the uniqueness God has bestowed on every single one of us and the gifts he has placed within us to be shared with the world."

- "No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn."
—Hal Borland
- "Faith is permitting ourselves to be seized by the things we do not see."
—Martin Luther
- "Music comes from an icicle as it melts, to live again as spring water."
—Henry Williamson

Giving up guilt

Rev. Greg Boyle, a Jesuit priest who ministers to high-risk youth in Los Angeles, once quipped, "I ... don't do guilt. I gave it up for Lent years ago." Many Christians give up something for Lent but usually not guilt! Rather, Lent is seen as a time to somberly examine our sinful nature.

Having witnessed sin's tragic effects through addiction, violence and gang warfare, Father Boyle realizes that dwelling on guilt doesn't lead to hope or healing. Instead, he helps young people discover their God-given strengths and their ability to make life-affirming choices. His non-profit Homeboy Industries provides positive alternatives for teenagers, who are reminded not of their guilt but of their identity as God's beloved children.

On Good Friday Jesus conquered sin and death so we don't have to wallow in guilt. Giving our lives to God frees us to live in the joy of forgiveness.

Entering glory

Martyn Lloyd-Jones, who served as pastor of London's Westminster Chapel for almost 30 years, couldn't speak at the end of his life. Days before dying, he wrote, "Do not pray for my healing. Do not hold me back from the glory."

The Apostle Paul was torn between staying on earth and going to heaven: "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. I am hard pressed between the two" (Philippians 1:21, 23).

Neither of these men feared death; nor should any Christian. As Haddon Robinson said, "For those who trust Jesus Christ, death is not a sheriff dragging us off to court but a servant ushering us into the presence of a loving Lord."

Relentless prayers

Are you reluctant to bring the same prayers to your heavenly Father over and over? Maybe you don't want to trouble God; after all, he already knows what you're going to say. Plus, you're not worthy to ask for anything!

If those thoughts surround you, think about Patrick, Ireland's patron saint. At 16, he was dragged from his home to be a slave. Patrick tended sheep in the cold. Hungry and miserable, he begged God for mercy and deliverance.

In his *Confessio*, Patrick recalls praying "a hundred times in the day and almost as many at night." Without ceasing, he told God of his needs, wants, thanksgiving and confession. And God heard his prayers.

Pray relentlessly. God is always listening!

—MaryAnn Sundby

Kid's Page

PRAYER HANDS

Make these hands as a helpful prayer guide.



What you need:

- 7 pieces of construction paper (different colors)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Stapler
- Colored pens
- Stickers

What you do:

1. Trace your hand (the same one) on each piece of paper.
2. Cut out and stack the hands. Staple together atop the pinky.
3. On the top hand (the front cover), write "Prayer Hands." Decorate with stickers.
4. On the second hand, write "Praise God." On the third, write "Ask for forgiveness." On the fourth, write "Thank God." On the fifth, write "Pray for others." On the sixth, write "Pray for me."
5. Use your book to remember what to pray for every day.



The psalmist's prayer

The Psalms are full of wonderful verses about God's care and protection.

Directions: Find each missing letter in the alphabets below. Use the resulting words to complete Psalm 86:7, NIV.

A B C E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
 A B C D E F G H J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S U V W X Y Z
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q S T U V W X Y Z
 A B C D F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
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 A B C D F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q S T U V W X Y Z

When I am in _____, I _____ to you,
 because you _____ me. Psalm 86:7, NIV

Answer: When I am in distress, I call to you, because you answer me. Psalm 86:7, NIV