

# The Reformer

Lawyersville and Sharon Reformed Churches 180

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.

April 2017

## What's Inside:

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



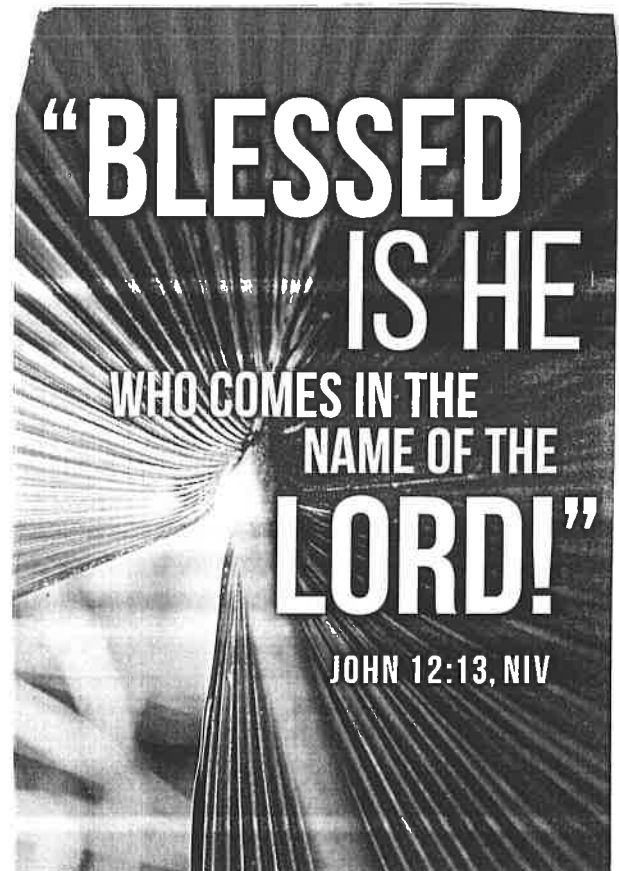
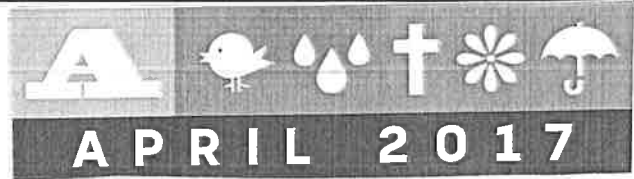
**LRC - Church Service**  
**9:00 A.M.**

**Sunday School**  
**following worship**

**SRC - Church Service**  
**11:00 A.M.**

**Sunday School**  
**9:30 A.M.**

**Rev. Paul Ferenczy**



## A New Jacket (by the Interim Pastor)

Ministers are not known for having lots of money....most ministers that is! Some seen on TV and others may lead a lucrative life-style but when I was growing up, ministers were one or two rungs above the church mouse. My father was a minister and though he never made much money it was not uncommon to wake up and find on our back porch, a large cut of beef or a butchered pig with the meat salted, smoked, or prepared for storing or to find a bushel of potatoes, carrots or other vegetables destined for our root cellar.

The ministry is a job where you get paid in other ways: in friendships, affection, relationships, and opportunities to help others through the most serious of circumstances of their lives or to share in their highest joys. Money could never buy that sort of experience. But as I said, most people know that a minister isn't going to be making a lot of money. That's not why one becomes a minister. If it is.....pick another career!

Being a student minister is even more difficult. There's tuition, books and travel. I was a student pastor near Toms River, N.J., married with three children and one on the way. In the community, a man died who owned a sports jacket that he had seldom worn. His widow, graciously asked me if I would want it. Of course I did! I may have been poor but not proud! The sleeves were a bit long but when I stood tall and stretched, it was made for me! I wondered when I wore it where this jacket had been? Did it see good times at weddings, sad times at funerals?. Witness mysterious business deals? Where had it been or shouldn't have been? Was it seen in respectable places or holy places? In a way, it represented the man who wore it and people knew who he was by that jacket. I wondered as I wore it if I had to live up to some kind of "reputation". When wearing it, would I have to do things I didn't want to do? Would people assume I did something, that I didn't do? I was filling another man's jacket. Walking in his shoes. Was I worthy? What was expected of me?

I remembered the words of the Apostle Paul in his letter to the Romans saying: "Put on the Lord Jesus Christ. Clothe yourselves with Jesus." His words were not far from the experience of putting on that jacket and living out all the expectations and past experiences that new jacket suggested. Once you put on Christ, you get the benefit of all that he did... being close to God, having a better understanding of the world, realizing different priorities and perspectives, possessing a new sense of peace and assurance. And when others see you wearing this new nature...they will see compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, understanding, the willingness to forgive just as he forgave you. Above all, they will see a love that brings harmony and peace. I have a feeling this is what Jesus meant in saying that people will see what you do and who you are and they will know you belong to Him. The widow gave me that jacket because she thought I needed it. She was right! Into my poverty of those days came this gift of a new jacket. That is true of all of us...spiritually! We need a new nature. In our poverty of spirit.....we need the gift of new life. Clothe yourselves with Jesus.

## Spiritual Gratitude

*(Written by Mary Elizabeth Speidell on the occasion of her reception*

*as a member of the Sharon Reformed Church.)*

You welcomed in my weary soul

and opened up the church doors as I shuffled in.

You offered me solicitude and invited me to stay.

I give my thanks to Jesus and you.

You could have turned me away

when my heart bled in agony,

instead you listened to my past, without judgment,

gave me penance and helped renew my faith.

It's so hard being a Christian today.

Beelzebub tempts God's little sheep.

Like a wolverine he howls in agony

because we love our Lord, so dear.



Prayer Requests

Church

Jean Wormuth/home  
 Muriel Homes/St. Johnsville Nursing Home  
 Jan Liberti/chemo Pills @ home  
 Sympathy for the family and friends of Warren Comins/Lola's brother-in-law

Family/Loved Ones

Ava Baker/2 year old/brain tumor  
 Nelson Castro/bone cancer  
 Joan Palmer's brother/rehab/home  
 Bill Averill/Double lung transplant  
 Ron Tryon/home recovering  
 Debbie/cancer/blood clots/improving nicely (Helen Brown's daughter)  
 Josephine King/nursing home  
 Rachel/home/rehab  
 Jeanne/health issues

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 grand-children  
 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  
 Cobleskill Lutheran Church/fire recovery

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.

### 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.



Office Phone #: 234-2387  
Web Site: [lrcandsrc.org](http://lrcandsrc.org)



**Editor: Lola Fletcher, 756 Loonenbergh TPK., Sharon Springs, NY 13459.**

Phone: 518-234-2283

E-mail [lola756@wildblue.net](mailto:lola756@wildblue.net)

**Deadline: April 26th.** Thanks to all for your information and contributions.

## MEMO BOARD

### April

9,16,23,30

9  
13

14  
16  
20  
29 & 30

### May

5 & 6

LRC Worship 9:00 A.M.  
Coffee hour following church  
SRC Sunday School for all ages 9:30 A.M.  
SRC Worship 11:00 A.M.  
Coffee hour following church

Palm/Passion Sunday  
Maundy Thursday Service @ LRC @ 5:30 P.M.  
Bring covered dish to pass & Table service  
Beverages Provided

Good Friday Service @ SRC @ 6 P.M.  
Easter Services

LRC Consistory @ 5:15 P.M.  
LRC Hall open to drop off to donations for rummage sale  
Clean out those closets @ garages

LRC Rummage and Bake Sale—Fri 9 A.M.—3 P.M. Sat 9-1  
Baked Goods needed Fri A.M.  
Help needed to set up on April 29th & May 1 & 2



**APRIL**

- 20 James Keaney**
- 22 Hunter Cullen**
- 22 Daniel Parsons**
- 23 Kathy Venette**
- 27 Jim Bixby**
- 27 Melissa Makarowski**
- 30 John Tryon**

**APRIL**

**NONE**



**Special dates**

- Fifth Sunday in Lent, *April 2, 2017*
- Palm/Passion Sunday, *April 9, 2017*
- Holy Week, *April 9-15, 2017*
- Maundy Thursday, *April 13, 2017*
- Good Friday, *April 14, 2017*
- Holy Saturday, *April 15, 2017*
- Easter Sunday, *April 16, 2017*
- Administrative Professionals Day, *April 26, 2017*

**"When life knocks you down, try to land on your back. Because if you can look up, you can get up. Let your reason get you back up."**

## *Empowered by Grace!*

A young boy walks into a small drug store and asks the druggist, "May I use the telephone?" The druggist replies, "You certainly may," and shows him where the telephone is. The boy calls a grocery store and asks the man who answers the phone, "Is your grocery store looking for someone to stock the shelves?" The man replies, "No, we already have a stock boy." The boy suggests, "If he isn't doing a good job, maybe you need to get someone who will do a better job." The man replies, "No, we are pleased with the work the boy is doing," so the boy hung up the telephone.

The druggist over-hears the conversation and says to the boy, "I'm sorry you didn't get the job." The boy says, "I don't need a job, because I am the stock boy. I was checking to see what they thought of my work."

What if you could call God to ask him how he saw your effort in fulfilling the purpose for which he created you? What kind of marks would he give you for being his witness, or how you were doing in your service to others, or how you were doing in your giving? What kind of response would you expect to hear? Would God see you as a person relying on the Holy Spirit to do his will or working in your own strength and giving yourself credit for your successes? When God looks at you, does he see that you acknowledge him as the source of all that is good? Does he see you seeking to use his strength and wisdom? Would God tell you that he is pleased with the ways you are using the time, talents, and money he has entrusted to you?

Unfortunately, we all fall well short of God's standards, but, because of what Christ did for us on the Cross, we are forgiven for all the times we have failed to honor God with our behavior and efforts to please him. By his grace he molds and transforms us into God-pleasing people who seek to please him. In Christ, we can do God's work well.

May 7 and 14<sup>th</sup> Worship Services will be emphasizing stewardship, but not the traditional sort of stewardship you may be thinking about. Rather, we are interested in learning what time, talents, and treasures you are called to share. We hope and pray that you will participate in both worship services and the Bible studies that immediately follow the worship services.

## Empowered by Grace to Do Your Best

**GOD'S GRACE MOTIVATES AND  
EQUIPS US TO DO OUR BEST IN  
GOD'S SERVICE.**

“...So as to walk in a manner worthy  
of the Lord, fully pleasing to him,



## Empowered by Grace to Give

**FIRSTFRUITS GIVING IS THE  
PRACTICE OF GIVING GOD  
OUR FIRST AND BEST.**



## Empowered by Grace to Serve

**ONLY BY GOD'S GRACE  
ARE WE EMPOWERED TO  
LIVE AS SERVANTS.**

