

The Reformer

Lawyersville and Sharon Reformed Churches 183

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.

July & August 2017

What's Inside:

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

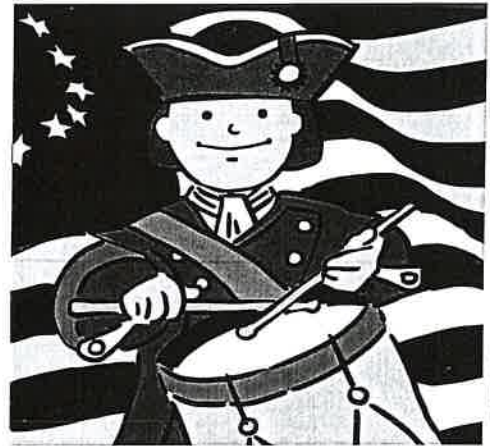


LRC - Church Service
9:00 A.M.

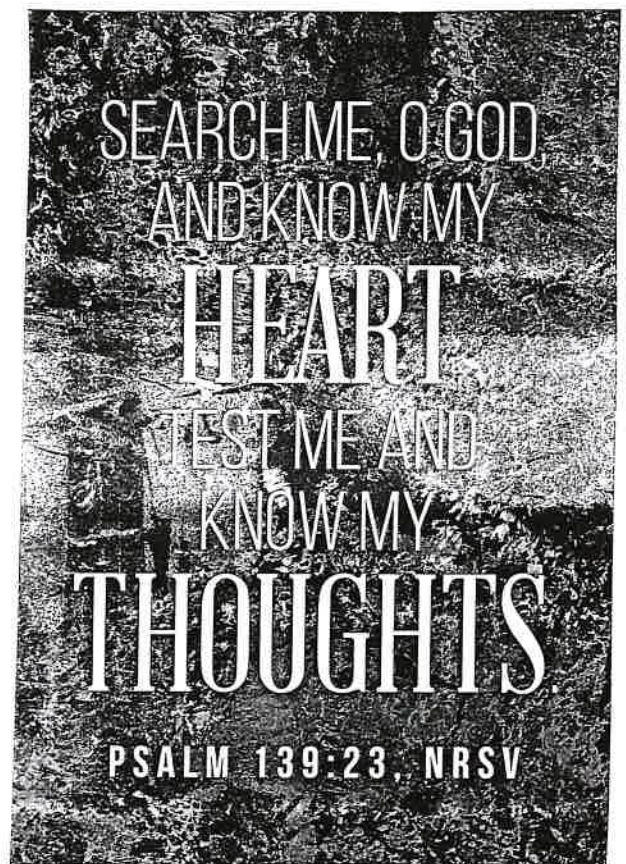
SRC - Church Service
11:00 A.M.

Sunday School
9:30 A.M.

Rev. Paul Ferenczy



Happy 4th of July!



I Will Keep Evil Far Away by the Interim Pastor

I need a daily dose of the Bible every day. Without it, I feel lost. If I forget it or skip it on purpose, it's like going on a trip into an unfamiliar place without a map or without your GPS. To make sure that I read something that has the power to challenge my spiritual life and enable me to consider being a better person, I subscribe to several daily devotional booklets that I receive through the mail or the internet. One that I really cherish and one that does what I need is called "Our Daily Bread". It's very title has a satisfying ring to it.

Recently, I came across one daily devotional that warned me about making God angry. Imagine, angering God. I certainly do not want to go there. The scripture it cited as proof that this can happen is from the book of Numbers 11:1. "When the people complained, it displeased the Lord: for the Lord heard it, and his anger was aroused." That goes back to the time when God was leading the people of Israel through the wilderness to the promised land. Apparently, a few people began to complain about how God was handling things and everyone else started listening to them and lo and behold, they too started to complain. It's amazing how much power the complainers have. Say something bad, loud enough and long enough and people will believe it's true.

It displeased God who had agreed to guide the people of Israel through the wilderness and to dwell with them. The people started to complain that God had brought them out into the hardships of the desert when they had it so safe back in slavery under the Egyptians. Then they got hungry and God sent them manna to eat, for free. All they had to do was collect it and do so according to some rules and regulations, but this wasn't good enough for them. More complaining. It seems as if the people forgot that their very lives and their food were gifts from God's loving hand. Their complaining poisoned their hearts with ingratitude, a contagious ingratitude that spread throughout the whole camp. When the complaining started, gratitude and thankfulness disappeared.

That short devotional said to me: "Stop your complaining. It gets God angry!" And I sure don't want to go there. I thank God for my daily dose of the Bible. It's a good reminder of how I can please the Lord.



Prayer Requests

Church

Jean Wormuth/stroke/home
Muriel Homes/St. Johnsville Nursing Home

Jan Liberti/chemo treatments
Mildred Erickson/pace maker
Dick & Joan/new home in Indiana
Joe King/nursing home

Family/Loved Ones

Margaret Springstead/health issues
Ava Baker/2 year old/brain tumor
Linda Slater/cancer surgery
Joan Diamond/health issues
Agnes Bautochka/hospital/heart Issues
Thelma Turner/heart issues
Ramona Tryon/health issues
Debbie/cancer recovery/Helen Brown's daughter
Rachel/good health results
Charlotte/cancer (Meta's friend)

Those homebound/in nursing homes:

Helen Holmes (LRC)
153 Hansen Rd.
Cherry Valley, NY 13320

Muriel Holmes (LRC)
St. Johnsville Nursing Home
7 Timmerman Ave.
St. Johnsville, NY 13452

Josephine King (SRC)
c/o Wilkison Nursing Home
Amsterdam, N.Y. 12010

Richard Nirschl (SRC)
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
Farmers struggling with weather issues

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

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

Why Grandma gave

One Sunday as she was getting ready for church, a grandmother received a call from her daughter. "Can you watch the kids while we're out of town next week?" the daughter asked.

Grandma was so thrilled she put an extra \$5 into the offering plate that morning.

The next Sunday, after her three young grandchildren had returned home, she put in an extra \$20.

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: August 23rd Thanks to all for your information and contributions.

MEMO BOARD

July

2,9,16,23,30

LRC Worship Service @ 9:00 A.M.
Coffee Hour after Service
SRC Sunday School @ 9:30 A.M.
SRC Worship Service @ 11:00 A.M.
Coffee Hour after Service

9 **LRC Presentation of Scholarships to 2017 Graduates**
Reception following service – All Welcome
16 **LRC As of 16th, we will be stopping coffee hour for the summer**
20 **LRC Consistory @ 5:15 P.M.**

August

6,13,20,27

LRC Worship Service @ 9:00 A.M.
SRC Sunday School @ 9:30 A.M.
SRC Worship Service @ 11:00 A.M.
Coffee Hour after Service
26 **LRC Summer Community Picnic in the Park - 3-7 P.M.**
See article in the reformer



JULY

BIRTHDAYS



JULY

ANNIVERSARIES

July

- 2 Steven DiCicco
- 4 Debbie Stanton
- 5 Michelle Keaney
- 14 Karl Cooper
- 17 Bonnie Tryon
- 19 Richard Palmer
- 28 Kristen Steidle
- 29 Ruth Mereness
- 30 Erin Cullen

July

NONE

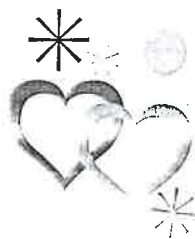


AUGUST

BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST

- 12 Lori Riggins
- 14 Eve Cullen
- 18 Adrienne Cullen
- 19 Lola Fletcher
- 25 Barbara Mereness
- 26 Betsy Rehl

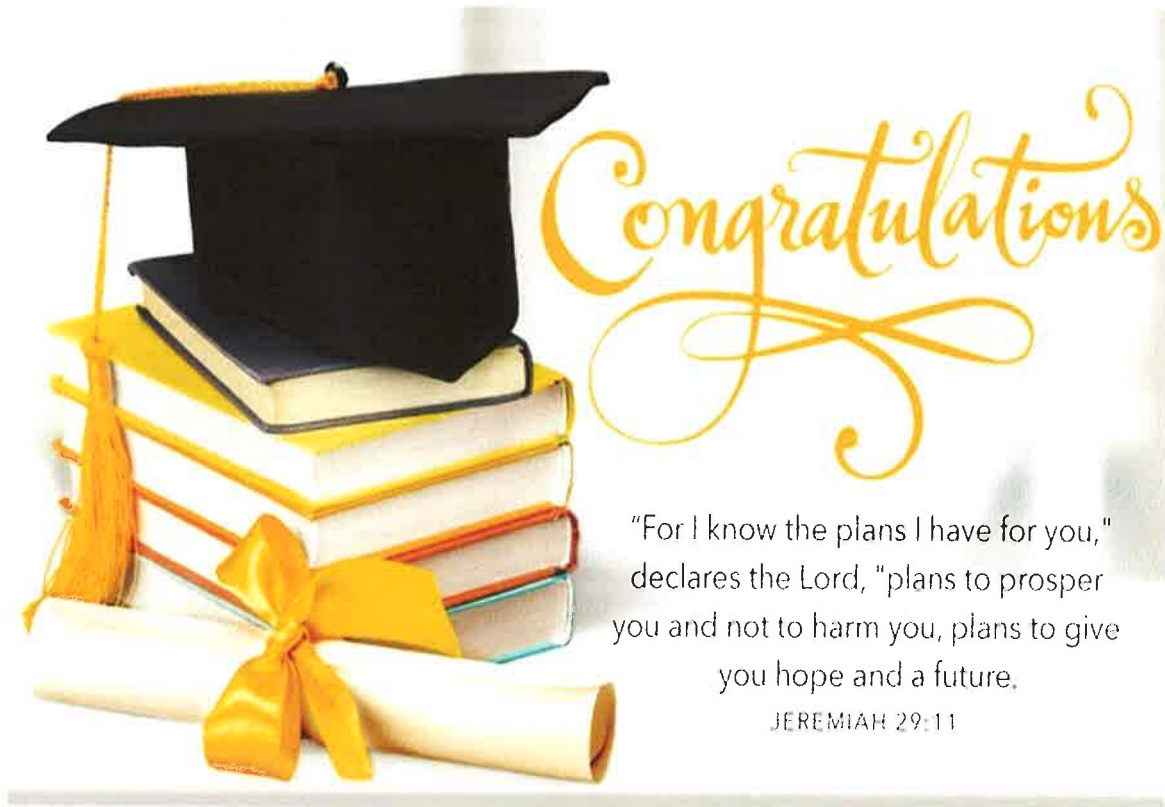


AUGUST

ANNIVERSARIES

AUGUST

- 4 Harold & Barbara Hall
- 24 Sam & Lori Riggins



"For I know the plans I have for you,"
declares the Lord, "plans to prosper
you and not to harm you, plans to give
you hope and a future.

JEREMIAH 29:11

2017 GRADUATES

Eric Bates - Son of Dan & Mary Bates

Attending Clarkson University Projected Graduation Date 2019
Pursuing a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering.
Dream someday to work for John Deere.

Sarah Bates - Daughter of Dan & Mary Bates

Attending Springfield College Projected Graduation Date 2021
Pursuing a career in sports medicine field
Focus on the athletes and the quality of their lives after their
athletic career.

Meghan Keaney– Daughter of James & Michelle Keaney

Attending Suny Oswego Projected Graduation Date 2021
Majoring in Cinema & Screen studies.
Hoping to work in movies and film

Nathaniel Shuart - Son of Tina Ward & Ted Shuart

Attending Suny Cobleskill Projected Graduation Date of 2021
Studying Graphic Design & Technology



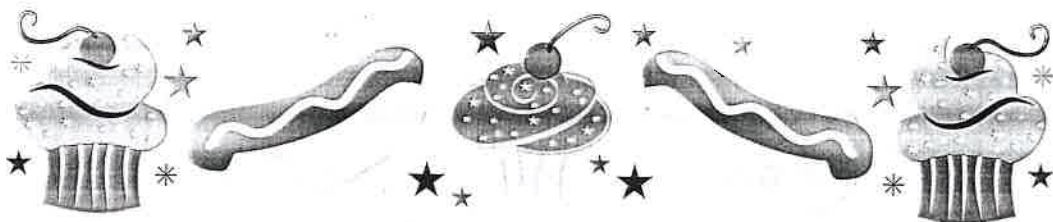
LRC Summer Community Social in the Park-August 26, from 3-7

Donations needed:

- Hot dogs and rolls
- Crock Pot of pulled pork
- Gift cards for raffle
- Monetary

Volunteers needed to set up and take down tables and chairs, clean up after picnic and help where it is needed.

Please see: Kelly, Kathy Tierney, Lois Wright, Barb Sutphen or Lisa with your donation. Thank you.



LRC Memorial funds were distributed to:

The American Heart Association in memory of Evelyn "Evie" Garber
The Catskill Area Hospice in memory of Rev. Jared van Wagenen IV
The American Heart Association in memory of Craig Erickson

In loving memory of Rev. Wil Ivins we are helping with the cost of the cemetery monument.

UPPER ROOM

We will be discontinuing the selling of the "Upper Room" as of December. With the increase in price again and the very few that are being purchased, we have decided to stay with the free "Daily Bread" devotionals.

If you want to receive your own personal subscription to the Upper Room, here is the information: Upper Room is \$13.99 a year—Regular or large print. You get 6 booklets a year.

Call 1-800-972-0433. They will bill you or you can pay with a credit card over the phone.

Our good God

For the love of God is broader
than the measure of man's mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
we should take him at his word;
and our life would be thanksgiving
for the goodness of the Lord.

Be Christ's

English pastor J. Sidlow Baxter often passed a retired pastor on a lane near his home. Baxter once asked the man, "How are you keeping?"

The man responded, "I'm not keeping, I'm kept."
Of all the things we can *be*, nothing beats *Christ's*.

The log in your eye

This humorous illustration of how *not* to get along at college also demonstrates Jesus' teaching in Matthew 7:3-5.

A young man from Scotland went to study at an English university. A month into the school year, his mother visited and asked how he liked living in the dorm. "It's awful!" he exclaimed. "The fellow in the room next door bangs his head on the wall constantly, and the one on the other side screams all day."

"How do you stand it?" his mother asked in amazement.

"Oh, I ignore them," her son replied. "I just sit here quietly, playing my bagpipes."

- "When all other doors in life are closed to us, Jesus will be for us the ever-open door. ... To call any situation hopeless is to shut the door on God."

—Anthony Coniaris

- "May we think of freedom not as the right to do as we please but as the opportunity to do what is right."

—Peter Marshall

- "As a child of God, I am greater than anything that can happen to me."

—A.P.J. Abdul Kamal

- "Summer night — even the stars are whispering to each other."

—Kobayashi Issa

- "The aim of education is the knowledge not of facts but of values."

—William S. Burroughs

- "Practice makes preachers. Love makes pastors."

—Clyde R. Webber Jr.

Puzzle!

Read the Old Testament book of Ruth, which is a great love story. Then search for the words below, which are all from that book.

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

Barley, Bethlehem, Boaz, David, Elimelech, Gleaning, Grain, Harvest, Jesse, Judah, Kilion, Kinsman, Mahlon, Mara, Moab, Naomi, Obed, Orpah, Ruth, Sandals, Threshing, Vinegar, Winnow

Christ's hands

In World War II, bombs destroyed a church in Strasbourg, France. As parishioners cleared the rubble, they discovered a statue of Jesus that was now missing both hands.

A visiting sculptor later offered to make repairs, but church members declined, saying Christ "has no hands to minister to the needy or feed the hungry or enrich the poor — except our hands. He inspires. We perform."

St. Teresa of Avila wrote:

Christ has no body but yours;
no hands, no feet on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
compassion on this world.
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.
Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours.

Independence Day lessons for church life

- **Return to the basics** — On July 4 we commemorate the origins of our country. In terms of faith, we also periodically need to hear again the foundational stories of Creation, the Israelites and, of course, Jesus.
 - **Honor the gift of freedom** — “For freedom Christ has set us free ... do not submit again to a yoke of slavery” (Galatians 5:1, ESV). We strive as citizens to preserve and live out our national freedom. Likewise, as citizens of God’s kingdom we live gladly in the freedom of salvation and share that gift with others.
 - **Enjoy community** — July 4 is known for picnics, parades and other community gatherings. Similarly, the church is nourished by coming together for worship, meals and other special events.
 - **Be light in the darkness** — As fireworks brighten the sky with light and color, the church is called to display the Gospel’s unique light in a dark world. Our word *dynamite* and the Greek word for *power* — as in, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you” (Acts 1:8) — share a root. Through God’s power in us, we share Jesus — dynamically! — with others.
- Heidi Mann

The pastor is in

Every Tuesday morning on New York City’s Upper East Side, Gregory Fryer sits in a *Peanuts*-style booth offering prayer and a listening ear to passersby. Initially the pastor wanted to draw attention to his church, but instead he ended up noticing all the “hungry hearts” in the neighborhood. Fryer has been pleasantly surprised by all the people who open up to him. “I think they like the idea of a pastor being on the sidewalk,” he says.

Although a sign on the booth reads “Spiritual advice 5¢,” the pastor keeps a plate of nickels handy if people want to put one in his jar. Some people donate much more — and some even pray for Fryer.

The pastor says he was inspired by *Peanuts* character Lucy van Pelt, who has the “audacity, the courage to brazenly sit there out in public and offer to deal with important matters.”

But what about here?

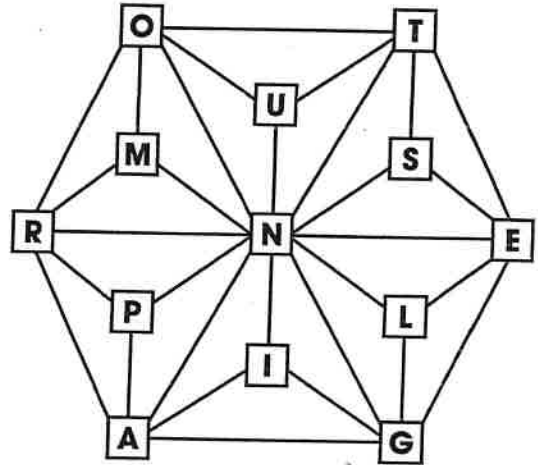
At age 4, Anna was starting to make sense of prayer. Her parents had been praying with her since birth, but now her developing cognitive and language skills caused her to really ponder what prayer meant for *her*.

One night, after tucking her into bed and leaving the room, Anna’s dad heard her voice. He paused outside the door to see if she needed something. But she was speaking to her *heavenly* Father: “Dear God,” Anna prayed, “when is the best time for me to talk to you? I mean, Mama and Daddy say I can pray anytime, and I know you’re always listening. But when will you be listening *especially* hard in Minneapolis?”

—Adapted from *The Children’s God*, David Heller

Puzzle!

Try to spell as many words as possible. Start anywhere and move along the connecting lines. Don’t skip letters; for example, you can’t form *must* because to get from *m* to *u* you’d need to skip either *o* or *n*. You may return to use the same letter twice, as when you form *noun*, but you can’t use the same letter twice in a row.



4-letter words: _____

5-letter words: _____

Words with 6 or more letters: _____

Answers include: 4-letter words: gain, pain, lens, mote, page, nuts, nest, sent, rant, rain, pant; 5-letter words: giant, pain, tents, notes, stone, stout, motor, mount; longer words: morning, routes, giants, mounts, promote, raging.

Your ticket is stamped

On a train trip, a pastor struck up a conversation with a seatmate who thought character and good works led to salvation. The pastor wasn’t making progress but had a realization when the conductor collected tickets, quickly checking the date before stamping each one.

After the conductor passed by, the pastor told his fellow passenger: “All the conductor looked at was your ticket. He did not inquire about your character. He didn’t care who you were — whether you were a good or moral man or a criminal. So it is with salvation. You need only God’s ‘ticket to heaven’ stamped by the blood of Jesus Christ.”

Kid's Page

Friendship Snack Mix



Life is more interesting when you have a diverse "mix" of friends. Show your variety of buddies how much they mean to you by making this snack for (or with!) them.

What you need:

- 1 cup fish-shaped crackers
- 1 cup chocolate Chex
- 1 cup mini pretzels
- 1 cup peanut butter crackers
- ½ cup mini M&M's
- Large bowl
- Snack-sized zippered baggies
- Permanent markers
- Foam stickers

What you do:

1. Mix all the food in the bowl.
2. Write a personalized message on each baggie. Decorate with stickers.
3. Measure some snack mix into each baggie. Seal them shut.
4. Share this snack with your friends!



Friends in the Lord

Proverbs 27:17 (NIV) says, "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." It's important to choose friends who help us be more like Jesus. How many words can you make from the word *friendship*?

F R I E N D S H I P

2-letter words: _____

3-letter words: _____

4-letter words: _____

5-letter words: _____

Words with 6 or more letters: _____

Answers include: in, is, hi, he, hip, end, sip, dip, np, mp, pie, sir, hid, ship, send, ride, dine, find, fine, drip, shed, dish, fish, rind, npe, hide, fried, pride, siren, fresh, ferns, friend, fisher, diners, rinsed, shrive, finish, shunter, insider, hinders, inspired, refinish, finished