

# The Reformer

Lawyersville and Sharon Reformed Churches 177

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.

January 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**

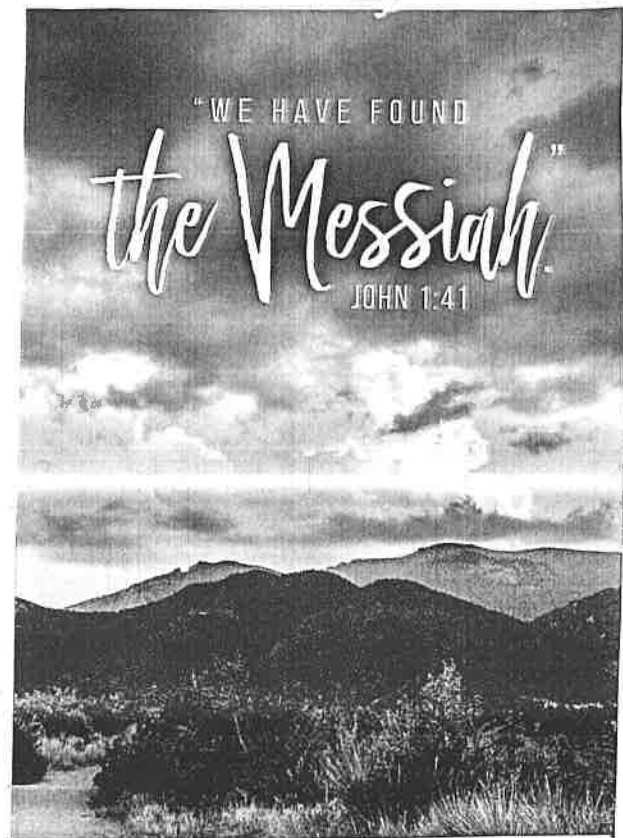
**SRC - Church Service**

**11:00 A.M.**

**Sunday School**

**9:30 A.M.**

**Rev. Paul Ferenczy**



## Special dates

- New Year's Day, *January 1, 2017*
- Epiphany, *January 6, 2017*
- Baptism of the Lord, *January 8, 2017*
- Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observance, *January 16, 2017*
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, *January 18-25, 2017*

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

(by the Interim Pastor)

Those words fall too easily from our lips, and yet, given the problems this old world faces, the least we could do is to wish each other a year that is better than the last. Problems continue in every area of life: an unpredictable future, a country terribly divided, injustices in the Justice System, civil unrest, violence toward and the abuse of women and children, terrorism around the world, hate crimes in abundance, atrocities continue in the Middle East, diseases that defy a cure and on and on. I'm sure you get the picture. Yet, with the old year ending on less than a happy note and facing a new year of uncertainties, I want to wish you and this old world something that would be hopeful and meaningful and above all, realistic and suitable for the occasion.

So let me wish you and yours a "joyous" new year. For me, joy is something that comes from within. Happiness is a condition brought about by outward circumstances. Good fortune, the absence of anxiety, freedom from want and good health would make me happy, but we cannot always have those things. Joy, however, seems to be an inward attitude and perception of things that comes from a heart that is in harmony with God and with itself. That's the kind of joy that nothing can ever take away. It may diminish for a while but it always flares up again like a flame that is re-kindled from glowing embers.

I am reminded of the time when Jesus was telling his disciples that he was about to be arrested, tried and put to death. What devastating news that must have been for them. In fact, they refused to believe it. Yet, it was in that same conversation and time of fellowship that Jesus also told his followers that he wanted then to have his joy in them. How could that be? How could Jesus have joy in himself as he was about to face the most agonizing moments of his life and how could the disciples receive joy into their hearts when their world was about to come crashing down on them?

In my experience as a pastor, I have met people who had everything they could possibly want except what they needed the most - joy. I have also met people who were in the midst of disasters and difficulties that no one should ever have, yet, they were filled with a fullness of joy that remained unshaken, filling them with inner strength and courage as they walked through their own valley of shadows. It was as if they had a Rock upon which to stand, no matter how shaky the ground, and a Refuge in which to find safety, no matter how troubled the world around them became. From what I saw in them, they were right with God and right with themselves. They were in harmony with God. They were in tune with God's purposes. No, they were not necessarily bubbling over with happiness, but they were filled with a quiet and resolute joy. They were blessed with peace, not as the world gives peace, but as God gives it.

Forgive me if I do not wish you a happy new year. Instead, I wish you a Joyous New Year in which you and your loved ones find yourselves right with God, in whom you will always find a Rock upon which to stand and a Refuge in which you will be kept safe. May you find in the days ahead, the peace of God, his blessings in abundance and most of all, his joy that can never be taken away from you.

---

### Undaunted

---

The year just past was wracked with violence, racism and political rancor. We long to fix these problems, but how? We may feel as frustrated as the church board member who spouted, "We've already tried prayer. It didn't work!"

Those words might resonate today, yet things aren't always what they seem. We can't see God behind the scenes crafting a new reality, but Scripture promises it. And though our prayers won't undo earthly death, they surround the grieving with strength and love. We can't "solve" sin, but our prayers can bring communities together and spur us to look out for one another.

The Jewish Talmud states, "Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. Do justly now. Love mercy now. Walk humbly now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it." In this new year, may we be undaunted in doing what we can. It might not seem like much, but things aren't always what they seem.

---

### Free refills

---

God's kingdom is like free refills at a restaurant. Wait — *what?!*

Jesus used common, everyday items to explain the kingdom of God; we can too! The kingdom is like free refills. Still thirsty after one soda or coffee? Get another — no charge. In fact, the kingdom of God is *better* than free refills because you don't even have to pay for the first glass.

It's like having a parent buy you a favorite meal when you're young. You sit back and savor it without the price crossing your mind. That's okay, because the generous giver loves you and wants to be with you.

Sure, that's simplistic, but so are Jesus' parables. Overanalyze them and they may fall apart. But ponder the single point each makes, maybe get a chuckle and an *a-ha!* out of it, and that parable has done its job. So grab another free refill — of your beverage and of God's love!

—Heidi Mann



Prayer Requests

Church

Lewis Ward/pace maker/new home  
 Jean Wormuth/stroke/home  
 Muriel Homes/St. Johnsville Nursing Home

Jan Liberti/chemo treatments/done  
 Allen Proctor/heart surgery recovery  
 Lois/Lola's sister/A-Fib/Pace maker

Family/Loved Ones

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

Betty Revis/blood clot in thigh/therapy

Debbie/testing

Marty/Joan's brother/tests

Donald & Lester Wilsey/health issues

Rex Smith Sr/health issues

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

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 (SRC)  
 418 Ridge Rd.  
 Broadalbin, NY 12025

Richard Nirschl (SRC)  
 St. Johnsville Nursing Home  
 7 Timmerman Ave.  
 St. Johnsville, NY 13452

# December 2016 Missions + Donations

## of Lawyersville Reformed Church Women's Ministries

SALT: Schenarie Area Long Term, Inc	\$ 200
Lawyersville Reformed Church	200
Animal Shelter of Schenarie Valley, Inc.	100
Cobleskill Regional Hospital	50
City Mission of Schenectady	300
Doctors Without Borders	300
American Bible Society	25
Vellore CMC Foundation, Inc.	100
Life Line - Cobleskill Regional Hospital	100
Farano Center for Children	100
Catskill Area Hospice	200
BCA - Board of Pensions	100
Catholic Charities of Schenarie County	50
Covenant House	50
LBC Parsonage Fund	200
Christmas Collaboration - Joshya Project	100
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$2175</b>

### A new view

The new year is an opportunity to sort out the useless tasks and plan for the important; to review the failures and resolve to be successful; to take an inventory of causes and pledge life to purpose and service. These being done, the new will truly be new, different and better.

—C. Neil Strait



**DAY 1**  
Look for the beautiful things in life, and they will appear.

**DAY 2**  
You're headed in a positive direction!

**DAY 3**  
Now is always filled with possibilities!

**DAY 4**  
You count!

**DAY 5**  
Stress can only get the best of you if you let it!

**DAY 6**  
You make a good day even better.

**DAY 7**  
A dream is a map to happiness. Follow it!



# JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

## JANUARY

- 9 Warren Van Deusen
- 19 Dan Fiske
- 21 Margaret Bixby



# JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

## JANUARY

- 18 Dan & Laura Davenport



FOR  
GOD'S  
SAKE  
DON'T  
MISS  
THE  
POINT!

• "Resolution One: I will live for God. Resolution Two: If no one else does, I still will."  
—Jonathan Edwards

• "Never trust anyone completely but God. Love people, but put your full trust only in God."  
—Lawrence Welk

• "Laughter is the sun that drives winter from the human face."  
—Victor Hugo

• "I know nothing except what everyone knows — if there when Grace dances, I should dance."  
—W.H. Auden

## Ignite!

It is with Christians as with burning coals. If these are scattered apart, one after the other, they are easily extinguished. But, when collected together, the fire of one preserves that of the other, and the glowing coals often ignite others that lie near.  
—August Francke

# Kid's Page

## MASON JAR nightLIGHT

Because Jesus is the light of the world, his followers don't need to fear darkness or life's dark times. Make this nightlight to remind you of Jesus' light and presence.



### What you need:

- Work area with good ventilation
- Mason jar
- Clear glue that works on glass
- Paintbrush
- Glass stones
- Tealight candle
- Lighter
- Adult supervision

### What you do:

1. Starting at the top of the jar, brush glue on a small section.
2. Press glass stones onto the glue in rows. Let dry.
3. Continue gluing stones, in small sections, until the entire jar is covered.
4. When dry, place a candle inside. Light with adult help.



## Light OF THE World

In a world full of sin and darkness, how can we find our way?  
Discover Jesus' answer in John 8:12, NIV.

*Directions: Use the key to fill in the missing vowels.  
Then read the completed Bible verse.*

KEY:  A  E  I  O

“ \_ \_ M TH \_ L \_ GHT \_ F  
TH \_ W \_ RLD. WH \_ \_ V \_ R  
F \_ LL \_ WS M \_ W \_ LL N \_ V \_ R  
W \_ LK \_ N D \_ RKN \_ SS.”  
J \_ H N 8:12, NIV

Answer: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness." John 8:12, NIV

### 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: [Ircandsrc.org](http://Ircandsrc.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: January 26th** Thanks to all for your information and contributions.

## MEMO BOARD

January

1,8,15,22,29

**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**

### **“The Wise May Bring Their Learning”**

### **God's promised spring**

Like winter, some seasons of our faith journey feel cold, barren, devoid of life. Will renewal ever come? Will spring flourish again in our heart? Yet the world bears witness to God's power to bring new life where all seems lost.

In the early 1990s, the St. Louis neighborhood of South City deteriorated sharply due to a stagnant economy, population decline and crime. Then Bosnian refugees started settling there. Thousands of people renovated abandoned houses and other buildings; they started businesses and brought skilled labor back to the neighborhood. As the area returned to life, the refugees experienced renewal, too — hope in place of discouragement, opportunities where none had existed, peace instead of war, life replacing death.

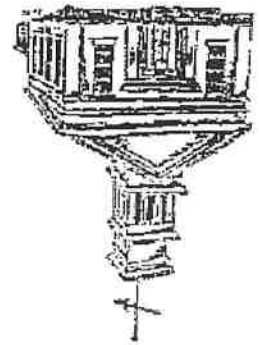
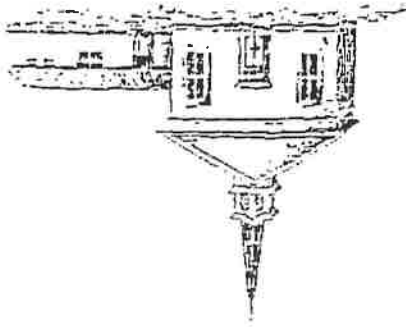
When our faith is challenged by despair, lost dreams or an uncertain future — when God's promises feel as dead as winter — real-life renewal stories are signs of spring. They testify to the resurrection God has in store for us.

The wise may bring their learning, the rich may bring their wealth,  
And some may bring their greatness, and some bring strength and health;  
We, too, would bring our treasures to offer to the King;  
We have no wealth or learning; what shall we children bring?

We'll bring him hearts that love him; we'll bring him thankful praise,  
And young souls meekly striving to walk in holy ways;  
And these shall be the treasures we offer to the King,  
And these are gifts that even the poorest child may bring.

We'll bring the little duties we have to do each day;  
We'll try our best to please him, at home, at school, at play;  
And better are these treasures to offer to our King;  
Than richest gifts without them — yet these a child may bring.

—Anonymous



## LAWYERSVILLE and SHARON REFORMED CHURCHES

P.O. Box 421  
Cobleskill, NY 12043

---

---

### Lessons from a snowman

---

---

- It's okay to wear white well after Labor Day.
- Simply hanging out in your front yard can be fun.
- Accessories don't have to be fancy or expensive.
- We're all made mostly of water.
- You know you've "arrived" when a song is written about you.
- So what if you're a little bottom-heavy?
- Don't get too much sun.
- Sweating too much can be disastrous!



---

---

### Washed clean

---

---

Your morning shower can do more than cleanse your body. Retired pastor Norman Neaves takes time to remember his baptism daily.

"As the water is pouring down on me, I reach up and get water all over my hand. Then I close my eyes and make the sign of the cross on my forehead. 'I have been baptized in Christ,' I say to myself quietly. 'This day belongs to him. I am called to be Jesus' representative whatever I am doing and wherever I might go. Give me the grace, Lord, to represent you well and with integrity.'"