

The Reformer

Lawyersville and Sharon Reformed Churches 187

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.

October 2017

What's Inside:

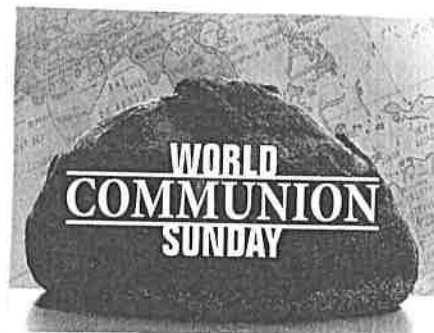
Interim Pastor's Page
Church Review
Calendar of Events
Children's Fun Page
Birthdays-Anniversaries



LRC - Church Service
9:00 A.M.

SRC - Church Service
11:00 A.M.
Sunday School
9:30 A.M.

Rev. Paul Ferenczy



Special dates

- World Communion Sunday, October 1, 2017
- Reformation Sunday, October 29, 2017
- Reformation Day, October 31, 2017

IS OUR CHURCH A HEALTHY CONGREGATION?

by the Interim Pastor

It is important for a church in transition to be healthy. It needs all its strength and stamina to meet the challenges that lie ahead. Not all healthy congregations look, act, or function exactly the same, however, there are some specific areas of congregational life that can be examined and its overall health determined.

- 1 **History and Heritage.** How do we value our past? What have we learned from our successes and failures. How did we become who we are? Has our history enriched us or imprisoned us? When we had bad experiences, did we work through them sufficiently and did we learn from them?
- 2 **Christian Community.** Who are we as a "Body of Christ"? What kind of climate do we provide for people when they come together? Is there an atmosphere of caring and support? Is this a place where people can feel they belong, regardless of their current or past circumstances? Are all people welcome here? Do we present an openness that invites strangers into our midst?
- 3 **Discernment.** How do we seek to be open to God's call? What distinguishes us from other organizations? Through our worship do we find ways to discern God's will? How faithfully do we practice and participate in prayer, study of scripture, meditation, worship and stewardship?
- 4 **Shared Vision.** Do we regularly rethink our vision of how we fulfill our mission as a faith community? Do we regularly collect information from our setting to understand the needs of people around us? Do we use the scriptures, prayer and meditation to help us develop our vision? How do we determine priorities for use of our limited resources?
- 5 **Making Disciples.** How well do we perform our duty in helping people grow in their religious life? Do we help our people discover and claim their gifts, talents and skills? Do we assist our people to be prepared to witness to their faith and minister to those who are not a part of the faith community?
- 6 **Ministries in the Community.** Do we know our responsibilities toward those in our immediate neighborhood? What services do we provide for them? Do our people understand our mission work as done collectively and individually? How well do we use our facilities, wealth, time and members in responding to those in need within our defined mission area?
- 7 **World View.** How well do we raise an awareness of the concerns and needs of the world and of our responsibilities to minister to those in need?
- 8 **Stewardship.** How do we teach responsible use of resources both as individuals and as a church family? Do we provide help for members to understand how money and financial resources are a gift from God?
- 9 **Leadership.** Is there a sharing of leadership between minister and people? Are responsibilities defined and roles clarified? Do leaders and people work together to fulfill our mission? Do we provide education and training for leaders and do they make use of such opportunities?
- 10 **Connection to Denomination.** How do we contribute to and receive help from our Classis and Synod? Does our connection to the Denomination contribute to our sense of identity and mission?



Appreciate — and act

October is Pastor (or Clergy) Appreciation Month, reminding church members to thank their hardworking ministry leaders. But the people in the pews — though they might lack official church titles — also play important roles in doing God's work.

In *User Friendly Churches* (Regal Books), researcher George Barna compares the behavior of people in growing vs. stagnant or declining churches. Members of growing churches actively participate in the church's ministry. "They did not divorce their faith from their lifestyle; their faith was their lifestyle," Barna writes. "They took seriously the classical Reformation doctrine of the priesthood of all believers."

By contrast, laypeople in stagnant churches tend to observe rather than participate. "They perceived their role as being in the audience in the stands," Barna notes, "nodding approvingly in efforts to demonstrate religious behavior as the clergy went through their pacts."

Appreciate your pastors, but then follow their example by living out your beliefs!



Prayer Requests

Church

Sympathy and prayers for family and friends of Ava Baker
 Jean Wormuth/home bond
 Muriel Homes/St. Johnsville Nursing Home

Jan Liberti/new chemo treatments
 Joe King/nursing home

Family/Loved Ones

Margaret Springstead/health issues
 Linda Slater/cancer surgery
 Joan Diamond/health issues
 Thelma Turner/heart issues
 Ramona Tryon/health issues
 Debbie/cancer recovery/Helen Brown's daughter/doing a lot better
 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

Children helping parents relocate and adjust to new surroundings

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

Farmers struggling with weather issues

Nation and World

All those affected by all the hurricanes

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.

"A dog barks when his master is attacked. I would be a coward if I saw that God's truth is attacked and yet would remain silent."

—John Calvin, French reformer who fled to Switzerland; father of the Presbyterian Church

"You cannot antagonize and influence at the same time."

—John Knox, a staunch follower of Calvin who brought Presbyterianism to Scotland



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

OCTOBER

- 5 Jean Wormuth
- 12 Danny Sperbeck
- 19 Jeff Cullen
- 20 George Fletcher
- 27 Laura Davenport
- 27 Andrew Tryon



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

OCTOBER

- 4 Jim & Jill Cullen
- 18 Fred & Betsy Rehl



“There is not — nor can there be! — any reason for tearing oneself away from the church in schism. Rather, the worse things become, the more one should help her and stand by her, for by schism and contempt nothing can be mended.”

—Martin Luther, German pastor whose “95 Theses” sparked the Protestant Reformation

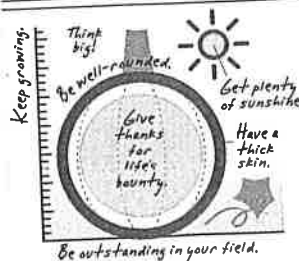
“Our confidence in Christ does not make us lazy, negligent or careless, but on the contrary it awakens us, urges us on and makes us active in living righteous lives and doing good. There is no self-confidence to compare with this.”

—Ulrich Zwingli, Swiss leader of early Reformation movements



**7 DAYS
WITHOUT
GOD
MAKES
1
WEAK**

Advice from a pumpkin



Be well-rounded.
Get plenty of sunshine.
Give thanks for life's bounty.
Have a thick skin.
Keep growing.
Be outstanding in your field.
Think big!

—Ilan Shamir

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: October 25th Thanks to all for your information and contributions.

MEMO BOARD

October

1,8,15,22,29

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

Sept 30 & Oct 1
2-4

LRC Hall open to bring items for Rummage Sale
Set-up for sale/Help needed @ 9 A.M.

6 & 7 LRC Rummage and Bake Sale Fri 9 A.M.—3 P.M. Sat 9 A.M.—1 P.M.
Help and Baked goods needed for the sale

27 LRC Prayer Service for Peace— Wed. @ 7 P.M.
Open to all. We need to pray for peace and for all the churches of our community.

THANK YOU

We wish to thank everyone for all the prayers, cards, calls and concerns in behalf of Jim. We appreciate everything. Margaret Bixby and family

Special thanks for people that step up to help when ever you are asked to do so. Doing jobs that are often not seen. Blessing on you all.

Thanks
FOR PITCHING IN!



Kid's Page

Sign of grace

Make this sign to hang on your wall as a daily reminder of God's amazing gift of grace.




What you need:

- White poster board
- Large wooden letters that spell GRACE
- Painter's tape
- Tempura paint
- Paper plates
- Paintbrushes
- Colored pens or markers



What you do:

1. Place the poster board on the ground (outside, if possible).
2. Put tape on the back of the letters and secure them to the board. No tape should be visible.
3. Paint and draw all over the poster board. Be creative with splatters, handprints and so on.
4. When paint is dry, remove the letters and hang up the poster.



Puzzle

The gift of grace

God's grace is a free gift, not something we can earn on our own. How do we have this gift?

Directions: Complete the Bible verse by placing the capital letters from the gifts on the blanks below.

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | u | O | R | L | t | A | s | W | v | w | G |
| I | x | V | p | E | N | M | q | O | S | a | r |
| E | r | S | e | G | R | m | A | C | E | d | T |
| R | U | n | T | H | T | H | R | k | O | U | G |
| H | j | J | E | S | f | U | S | u | C | O | H |
| R | b | I | y | p | S | T | J | O | i | H | N |

" _____ the _____ was _____
 through _____ ; _____ and
 _____ came _____
 _____ ."

_____ 1:17, NIV

Answer: "For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." John 1:17, NIV

[KID1017B]

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The Cell phone Vs. The Scriptures

I wonder what would happen if we treated our scriptures like we treat our cell phones?

What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?

What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?

What if we spent an hour or more using it every day?

What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?

What if we gave it to other kids as gifts?

What if we used it as we traveled?

What if we used it in case of an emergency?

Unlike our cell phones:

One plan does fit all.

Unlimited usage. No roaming charges.

You always have reception.

You can use it in the mountains and in a tunnel.

It's free with no hidden costs.

AND you don't ever have to worry about your scriptures being disconnected because **CHRIST** has already paid the bill!

LRC RUMMAGE AND BAKE SALE

WHEN: October 6 th and 7th

TIME: Fri-9 A.M.-3 P.M.

Sat-9 A.M.- 1 P.M.

**Hall will be open on Sat. Sept 30 and Oct. 1
to drop off items for the sale**

Help needed on Oct.2-4 to set up for sale

Baked goods needed for the sale

Start cleaning out those closets of unneeded

Items you can get rid of

Thanks to all who have helped with these

sales all these years



King of kings, Word of words

When Jesus Christ utters a word, he opens his mouth so wide that it embraces all heaven and earth, even though that word be but in a whisper. The word of the emperor is powerful, but that of Jesus Christ governs the whole universe.

—Martin Luther, *Table Talk*

K I N G O F
KINGS
W O R D O F
WORDS

[image above: KING_16297, KING_16297C]

Reformation milestone: celebration and repentance

October 31, 2017, marks the 500th anniversary of the start of the Protestant Reformation, when Martin Luther posted his “95 Theses” on a church door in Germany. This wasn’t an unusual act at the time; Luther was simply welcoming scholarly debate. But his ideas opposing certain teachings and practices of the Roman Catholic Church led to a monumental shift in Christianity.

Along with other reformers, Luther taught that Scripture is the supreme authority for the believer; that salvation comes by grace alone, through faith alone; and that baptism gives all full access to God in Christ (“the priesthood of all believers”), so there’s no need for an intermediary such as a pope, priest or saint.

Initially, the reformers intended not to leave the Catholic Church but to reform it. But those who protested church practices became known as Protestants, and eventually, multiple denominations arose — Lutheranism, Presbyterianism, Anglicanism and others — and did, in fact, separate from the Roman tradition.

Sadly, woven amid the good intentions to rightly teach and live the faith were sins on all sides: Luther hurled insults “with the best of them”; the pope excommunicated him and had other reformers executed; the beliefs and faith of theological opponents were regularly disparaged. As Heinz Josef Algermissen, a present-day Roman Catholic bishop in Germany, states: “In commemorating the Reformation, we cannot just see it as a jubilee, but should also admit our guilt for past errors and repent on both sides for the past 500 years.”

Just show up!

In *A Million Little Ways* (Revell), Emily Freeman says in order for Christians to “show up as you are with what you’ve been given,” we must confront these statements:

- I’m not cut out for this.
- Someone else can do it better.
- People might not like it.
- I have nothing to offer.
- I hate my calling.
- It’s a waste of time.
- It’s too much work.
- Who do you think you are?

“A million loud voices ... keep us from the million little ways [Jesus] wants to show up through us to the world,” Freeman writes.

Making contact

Prayer is ... a personal contact between embryonic, incomplete persons (ourselves) and the utterly concrete Person. Prayer in the sense of petition, asking for things, is a small part of it, confession and penitence are its threshold, adoration its sanctuary, the presence and vision and enjoyment of God its bread and wine. In it God shows himself to us.

—C.S. Lewis

Puzzle!

Find these words — all from the book of Acts — forward, backward or diagonally in either direction.

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

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|----------|-----------|-------------|----------|-------|-----------|-----------|----------|--------|---------|--------|----------|---------|---------|
| Joppa | Jesus | Jerusalem | Holy Spirit | Gentiles | Gaza | Ethiopian | Dorcas | Damascus | church | chariot | basket | Barnabas | baptize | Ananias |
| synagogue | Straight | stones | Stephen | sorcery | Simon | Saul | Sanhedrin | Samaria | prison | prayer | Philip | Peter | Paul | light |

- “The Reformer is always right about what’s wrong. However, he’s often wrong about what is right.”
—G.K. Chesterton
- “Autumn carries more gold in its pocket than all the other seasons.”
—Jim Bishop
- “You aspire to great things? Begin with little ones.”
—St. Augustine