

# The Reformer

Lawyersville and Sharon Reformed Churches 175

**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.**

September 2016

## 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**

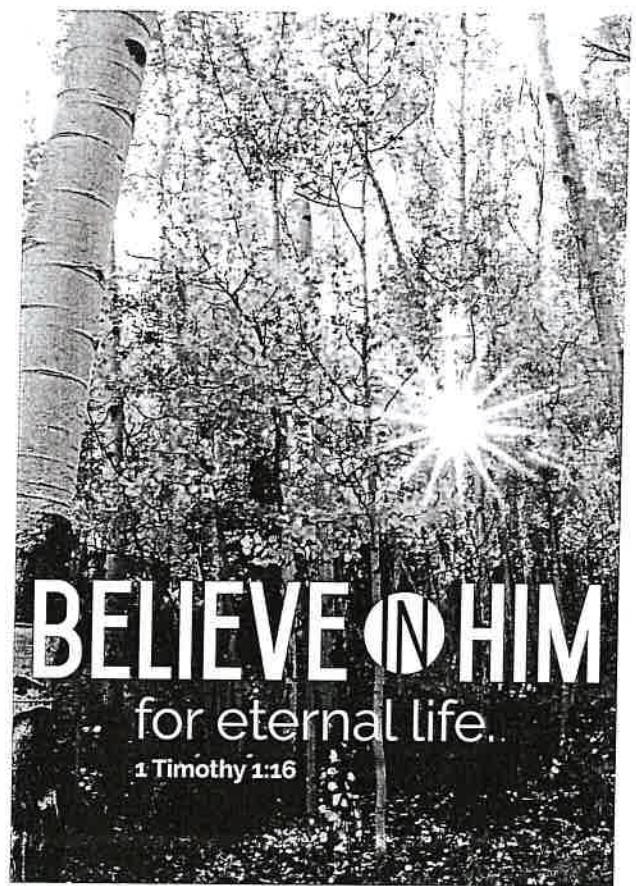
**SRC - Church Service**

**11:00 A.M.**

**Sunday School**

**9:30 A.M.**

**Rev. Paul Ferenczy**



## Special dates

- Labor Day, *September 5, 2016*
- Patriot Day, *September 11, 2016*
- National Grandparents Day, *September 11, 2016*
- Hispanic Heritage Month, *September 15-October 15, 2016*
- First day of autumn, *September 22, 2016*

**Coffee hour after services**

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## Prayer warriors

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After tragedies, natural disasters and terrorism, people now commonly turn to social media to request prayers. Although it can feel “jarring” to see “so many references to the divine in spaces normally reserved for vacation photos,” writes journalist Eleanor Barkhorn, it’s a modern-day version of the New Testament’s reminders to pray constantly and in all circumstances.

Over the years, churches have encouraged members to pray through letters, phone chains, prayer breakfasts and prayer groups. “With that context in mind,” Barkhorn writes, “Facebook shouldn’t cheapen prayer any more than the Postal Service or the telephone does.”

Russell Moore of the Southern Baptist Convention says, “Asking for prayer via Twitter or Facebook is no different than calling someone and saying, ‘We should really pray for this.’ ... Social media can be a tremendous force for good in alerting people to things they can be praying about right away.”

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## Our real work

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It may be that when we no longer know what to do we have come to our real work, and that when we no longer know which way to go we have come to our real journey. The mind that is not baffled is not employed. The impeded stream is the one that sings.

—Wendell Berry, *Standing by Words*

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## Heavenly vision

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Known as the “queen of gospel song writers,” Fanny Crosby (1820-1915) wrote more than 9,000 Christian hymns, including “Blessed Assurance” and “Safe in the Arms of Jesus.” Blind from a young age, she developed a love for poetry and Scripture, memorizing about five chapters of the Bible each week. Crosby was the first woman to speak in the U.S. Senate, lobbying to support education for the blind. She also was an abolitionist who made friends with several presidents.

A well-meaning pastor once told Crosby, “It is a great pity that the Master did not give you sight when he showered so many other gifts upon you.”

She responded that her blindness was a blessing she would not wish away. “When I get to heaven,” Crosby said, “the first face that shall ever gladden my sight will be that of my Savior.”

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## Rest and rainbows

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Sometimes it’s important to work for that pot of gold. But other times it’s essential to take time off and to make sure that your most important decision in the day simply consists of choosing which color to slide down on the rainbow.

—Douglas Pagels, *These Are the Gifts I’d Like to Give to You*



## Interim Pastor’s Page

THE WORLD IS JUST OUTSIDE YOUR FRONT DOOR  
(by The Interim Pastor)

The other day I saw a Postal-person actually delivering the mail to houses along the street. That has got to be a unique characteristic of city life. In most of the places where I have lived, people pick up their own mail or have it delivered by someone in a station wagon on which there flashes a yellow warning light. Having seen the mail delivery person walking down the street, I was reminded of an old poem that describes a letter-carrier taking a walk on his day off. Why would someone on their day off do what they do every day for a living? Which leads me to ask another question - Did you ever wonder what preachers do on their vacation Sundays?

Our family was vacationing in Delaware. A friend of my daughter allowed us to rent their summer house located on the Chesapeake Bay. It was absolutely beautiful. No day is ever the same near the ocean. One day wind and high waves, another day calm, some cloudy but most bright and sunny. Seated in the living room, we could look out through the sliding glass doors and watch and listen to the waves caressing the shore. We saw sea gulls, terns, ducks, dolphins, sand sharks, turtles, blue fish, crabs, jelly fish, mosquitoes, airplanes, snow geese and even a red fox scampering past the house. In the distance we saw tall, four-masted ships, a Coast Guard patrol boat, cargo ships and oil tankers from the mid-East. In the far, far distance we could see the New Jersey shore and at night the circling light of the Cape May lighthouse winked at us every 19 seconds..

With the grandeur of God’s creation surrounding us, I felt constrained to go to church and thank Him for all His blessings. Besides, it would just not seem to me like Sunday if I didn’t go. I had been attending a local church 5 years in a row. Sad to say, it was a dying church. It’s a charming, brick building located right along a busy highway in the middle of a very active business center and several housing developments. Just down the road is another church with one of those more modern names that is growing like wild fire and in fact, they were busy building a brand new sanctuary.

The church where I worshiped had about 20 to 25 in attendance served by a “supply” pastor who had been there three years. Not much activity was going on as far as program except for a “Soup Kitchen” open every Thursday from 10AM to 2PM. About 10 people availed themselves of that ministry. I would imagine in its day, the church was active and I am sure that even then, out of their devotion and commitment, some Christians did minister by carrying their faith to other places and serve by being living examples of the Christian life. But now the church was dying. Why?

Churches die for many reasons - poor leadership, lack of commitment, bickering and loss of zeal. The fault lies with parishioner as well as preacher. But what seems to strike me about this church was that they had allowed the world to pass them by, and the world was indeed, passing by every day at a furious rate just outside their door. They were located on one of the busiest highways in the area. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians saying, “I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some.” That’s what seemed to be missing in the little brick church by the Bay. They seemed to be so disinterested in the people that occupied the world around them or even the stranger that visited them.

After the service of Worship on a beautiful summer Sunday, I was greeted at the door by the pastor. He shook my hands and wished me a blessed day. He showed little interest in who I was. I could have been a new local resident looking for a church but neither pastor nor parishioner made any effort to inquire. I wondered how many others had passed by that way and little notice was taken of them. Meanwhile the world rushes by the doors of many churches. Do they notice?





Prayer Requests

Church

Jean Wormuth/home  
 Muriel Homes/St. Johnsville Nursing Home  
 Jan Liberti/chemo treatments  
 Bob Speidell/retinopathy  
 Dawn & Rachel/health issues

Family/Loved Ones

Margaret Springstead/operation  
 Ava Baker/2 year old/brain tumor  
 Debbie Anderson/hearing surgery  
 Carol Coltrain/slow recovery

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)  
 418 Ridge Rd.  
 Broadalbin, NY 12025

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

Community

Our sisters and brothers in Christ from the Dorloo, Hyndsville, Mineral Springs United Methodist and Warnerville United Methodist Church  
 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 those impacted by Irene, Lee and Sandy Schoharie Area Long-Term Recovery (SALT)  
 Concerns about the economy, unemployment and foreclosures  
 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  
 Government dysfunction

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

## Giving your all

Christ says, "Give me all. ... No half-measures are any good. ... Hand over the whole natural self, all the desires which you think innocent as well as the ones you think wicked — the whole outfit. I will give you a new self instead. In fact, I will give you Myself: my own will shall become yours."  
 —C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*



[Image above: GIVE\_14587, GIVE\_14587C]

## Break my heart

While traveling with Youth for Christ in Asia in the 1940s, Baptist minister Robert Pierce saw many orphans and suffering children. He wrote in his Bible, "Let my heart be broken with the things that break the heart of God." Pierce then dedicated his life to relief work, eventually founding World Vision International and Samaritan's Purse. He believed the church had to meet people's physical needs before it could share the gospel message with them.

The work Pierce began continues today: World Vision is now active in 90 countries and Samaritan's Purse in more than 100.

## Modern miracles

At the mention of miracles, we often picture the biblical kind: a dead person brought back to life, a small amount of food feeding a crowd, sight restored to a blind man. Yet even today we look for unexpected healings or an earthquake victim found alive after days amid rubble.

But consider someone born with poor eyesight who, thanks to technology, can work as a professional proofreader or create intricate digital paintings. Consider someone with a prosthetic leg who can run and even win races. Consider someone who, thanks to a donated heart, kidney or blood, continues to live. Consider friends in the United States and Europe who can connect in "real time," offering support during a crisis.

Technology — whose source is the human brain created by God — makes possible a new, modern-day type of miracle. When used for good, it can overcome barriers, allowing us to celebrate life and serve one another. Miracles, indeed!

## Do something

God wants our work to be meaningful and satisfying. No matter what we do, it should provide a reason to get up each day and use the talents God has given us. As Benjamin Franklin said, "The man who achieves makes many mistakes, but he never makes the biggest mistake of all: doing nothing."

## Back-to-school humor

- Summer is over. Time to officially remember what day of the week it is!
- "Labor Day is a glorious holiday because your child will be going back to school the next day. It would have been called Independence Day, but that name was already taken." (Bill Dodds)
- Receiving new textbooks, one student to another: "Psst. How do you turn this thing on?"
- Parent: "What did you learn today?" Kindergartner: "Not enough. I have to go back tomorrow."

# Puzzle!

Search for words found in Romans 8.

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

Abba	elect	Jesus	adoption
family	justifies	angels	firstborn
Lord	bondage	flesh	love
called	freedom	peace	Christ
fruits	powers	condemnation	glorified
predestined	conquerors	good	purpose
creation	hardship	redemption	decay
died-	intercedes	Spirit	heart

NOTE: A completed puzzle is in a file called puzzle0916\_a on this month's CD and on the website, [www.NewsletterNewsletter.com](http://www.NewsletterNewsletter.com).



# SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

## September

- 3 Sam Riggins
- 4 Verne Venette
- 5 Shawn Van Aller
- 7 Shane Hayes
- 7 Christine Parsons
- 11 Muriel Holmes
- 15 Samantha Keaney
- 16 Scarlet Smith
- 18 Fred Rehl
- 21 Lisa Boss
- 26 Barb Sutphen
- 28 Conner Stiedle



# SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

## September

- 2 John & Bonnie Tryon
- 13 James & Michelle Keaney
- 14 Warren & Pat Van Deusen



**GOD'S  
PROMISES  
NEVER  
FAIL**

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A time for peace

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"We must never allow September 11<sup>th</sup> to become a time for protest and division. Instead, this day must remain a time for promoting peace and mutual respect."  
—Archbishop Timothy Dolan



"Anything about leash laws?"



### 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: September 21st** Thanks to all for your information and contribu-

## MEMO BOARD

September  
4,11,18,25

30 & Oct.1

Save Your  
Items for Our  
Rummage Sale



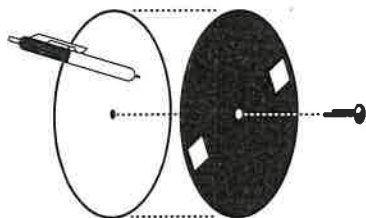
**LRC Worship 9:00 A.M.**  
**Coffee hour following church**  
**SRC Sunday School for all ages 9:30 A.M.**  
**SRC Worship 11:00 A.M.**  
**Coffee hour following church**  
**LRC/RCWM Rummage and Bake Sale**  
**Fri - 9 A.M. - 3 P.M. - Sat - 9 A.M. -- 1 P.M.**  
**Help needed to set up on Mon 26 & Tues 27**  
**Bake goods needed on Fri 30 th**

- "Christianity has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and not tried."  
—G.K. Chesterton
- "Promises are like crying babies in a theater; they should be carried out at once."  
—Norman Vincent Peale
- "I cannot endure to waste anything so precious as autumnal sunshine by staying in the house."  
—Nathaniel Hawthorne
- "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

# Kid's Page

## PROMISE WHEEL

This craft will remind you that God is always with you.



### What you need:

- A large round bowl
- 2 large pieces of construction paper
- A pen
- Scissors
- A ruler
- A brad
- A Bible or search engine

### What you do:

1. Turn the bowl upside down and trace around it on both pieces of paper.
2. Cut out the circles. Draw a dot in the center of each.
3. On one circle, trace and cut out two 2" squares opposite each other, with the dot in the middle.
4. Align the dots and place the brad through both circles.
5. In the space left by one square, write a fear you have. Then write a comforting Bible verse in the other square.
6. Rotate the circle to a new blank space, and write another fear and verse.



## THE LORD WILL PROTECT

God always watches over us, during good times and bad.



*Directions: Connect the dots, according to the instructions below. Then use the resulting word to complete the Bible verse.*

*Start at 19. Draw from 19-18, 18-17. 47-62, 62-77. 22-21, 21-20. 50-51. 82-81, 81-80, 80-65, 65-50, 50-35, 35-20. 24-38, 38-53. 24-40, 40-55. 17-32. 47-48. 32-47. 26-41, 41-56, 56-71, 71-86. 56-57, 57-58. 55-54, 54-53, 53-68, 68-83. 55-70, 70-85. 58-43. 57-73, 73-88. 43-28, 28-27, 27-26.*

•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135

>> "So do not \_\_\_\_\_, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God." Isaiah 41:10, NIV <<

Answer: fear

# A Dog at the Door

By Louis Lotz

**A** door, said Ogden Nash, is what a dog is perpetually on the wrong side of. My dog is on the wrong side of the door just now, whimpering, barking, wanting to come in.



©iStockphoto.com/chase-clark

He is always on the wrong side of the door. Let him in and he wants to go out. Let him out and he wants to come in. He sits out there barking, and I say to myself, *he can bark all day, he's not coming in*. But eventually he wears me down. I let him in, and he walks triumphantly to his bed. In ten minutes he'll want to go out again.

This recurring canine drama always brings to mind a parable in the gospel of Luke. It is midnight in a drowsy Galilean village, when suddenly there comes this uproarious banging at the door, and a man calls out, "Friend, lend me three loaves." With friends like this, who needs enemies? From within, an irritated voice hollers, "Go away!" But the neighbor won't go away. This guy is shameless. He is maddeningly persistent. His horsefly annoyance finally wears down the sleeper, who gets up and gives him some bread.

Some parables are hard to understand. This isn't one of them. If some grouchy sleepyhead will answer a midnight knock just to get some peace and quiet, how much more readily will God open the door to his children and supply their more desperate needs? The point is not that God is a reluctant giver, but that we should be persistent askers. Be like the persistent bread-borrower. Keep banging at heaven's door until your needs are met.

Not many of us pray that way. For most folks, prayers are like quarters in a slot machine. If we don't hit the jackpot after a few tries, we give up. Don't give up, says Jesus. Be persistent.

A minister friend of mine says that asking God to meet your needs is a spiritually immature and primitive exercise. Prayer does not change things, he says; prayer changes you. Prayer enables you to adjust yourself to the way things are.

Really? Prayer does not change things? Nothing about prayer could be farther from the mind of Jesus. Jesus says that God invites us and encourages us to make our requests known. God waits for our prayers, wanting to meet our deepest needs.

Keep asking. Keep banging at the door. Don't give up. As the saying goes, "Come! Let us storm the heavens with our prayers!" ■