

# The Reformer

Lawyersville and Sharon Reformed Churches 169

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 2016

## What's Inside:

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



**LRC - Church Service**

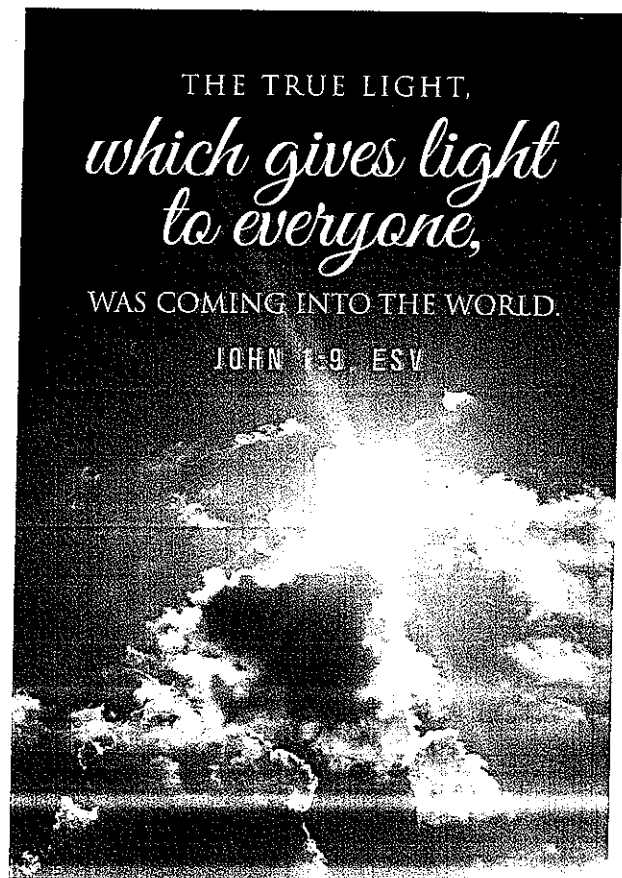
**9:00 A.M.**

**Sunday School  
following worship**

**SRC - Church Service**

**11:00 A.M.**

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



THE TRUE LIGHT,

*which gives light  
to everyone,*

WAS COMING INTO THE WORLD.

JOHN 1:9 ESV

## Special dates

- New Year's Day, *January 1, 2016*
- Epiphany, *January 6, 2016*
- Baptism of the Lord, *January 10, 2016*
- Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observance, *January 18, 2016*
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, *January 18-25, 2016*

## VEEP'S PAGE

On this page, Dan and I will keep you informed of what is going on in our churches. Right now, we have been assigned Supervisors to oversee us. They are Rev. Sherri Meyer-Veen from Schoharie Reformed and Rev. Rich Dykstra from Roxbury Reformed. They will attend our consistory meetings and help when we have questions.

We will continue with Pulpit supply until we either have a Specialized Interim Minister or have gotten to the point in our churches when we can issue a call to a minister. We will not do a search until such time as when our healing and recovery have been completed.

We will try letting you know who will be in our pulpit for the coming month.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact either Dan or myself. Chris' number is 518 339-0695 and my phone is always on.

May God Bless You in this time of transition in our churches.

Chris

### January Worship

01.03.15 Second Sunday after Christmas Day (white)

Jeremiah 31.7-14

Psalm 147:12-20

John 1:10-18

01.10.15 First Sunday after the Epiphany; Baptism of the Lord (white)

Isaiah 43.1-7

Acts 8.14-17

Psalm 29

Luke 3:15-17.21-22

01.17.15 Second Sunday after the Epiphany (green)

Isaiah 62.1-5

Psalm 36.5-10

I Corinthians 12.1-11

John 2:1-11

01.24.15 Third Sunday after the Epiphany (green)

Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10

Psalm 19

I Corinthians 12:12-31a

Luke 4:14-21

01.31.15 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany (green)

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Psalm 71:1-6

I Corinthians 13:1-13

Luke 4:21-30



### **The meaning of Epiphany**

Epiphany, which comes from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, means "an appearance" or "a revealing." Centuries ago, the church set aside January 6, the 12<sup>th</sup> day after Christmas, to mark the revealing of Jesus as Christ to the wise men, who were Gentiles. Jesus' first followers were Jewish, so the revelation of the divine Christ to the non-Jewish magi reminds us that Jesus came to earth to save the whole world.

Symbols of Epiphany include light, a star, a crown (or three crowns) and a globe or stylized portrayal of the world. The color of Epiphany is green to symbolize life, growth, hope and eternity.

On the church calendar, the Epiphany season lasts until Ash Wednesday, which is determined by the date of Easter.



Prayer Requests

Church

Pastor Pacia  
 Lee Empie, Jr./cardiac surgery recovery  
 Muriel Homes/St. Johnsville Nursing Home  
 Helen Brown/Palatine Nursing Home/  
 declining

Family/Loved Ones

Braeden/surgery recuperation  
 Margaret Springstead/cancer on face  
 Matt and Zawisza (Living Gospel Ministries)/  
 health issues  
 Sylvia-Ferrell Jones/lung cancer  
 Richard Nirschl/ St. Johnsville Nursing Home  
 Isaac/high fever  
 Sue Jones/Marchand Manor

**Updates on those on the prayer list are needed, so that we know how best to pray. Inactive requests will be taken off the list.**

Those homebound/in nursing homes:

Helen Brown (LRC)  
 Palatine Nursing Home  
 154 Lafayette St.  
 Palatine Bridge, NY 13428

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

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 inse-  
 curity  
 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

Sue Jones (LRC)  
 Marchand Manor  
 121 Main St.  
 Sharon Springs, N.Y. 13459

Josephine King (SRC)  
 418 Ridge Rd.  
 Broadalbin, NY 12025

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

LRC/RCWM

Dec. 2015: Mission Work

SALT: Schoharie Area Long Term, Inc.	\$200
Lawyersville Reformed Church	\$200
Animal Shelter of Schoharie Valley	\$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 - Bassett Hospital of Schoharie County	\$100
Farano Center for Children	\$100
Catskill Area Hospice	\$300
PCA Church of America (PCA Board of Pensions)	\$500
Catholic Charities of Schoharie County	\$50
Covenant House	\$50

\$2015 Total



**JANUARY**

9 Warren Van Deusen  
 19 Dan Fiske  
 21 Margaret Bixby

**JANUARY**

18 Dan & Laura Davenport



"You'll love the congregation.  
 We're just chock-full of sermon material."



**OUR LIVES  
 BEGIN TO END  
 THE DAY WE  
 BECOME SILENT  
 ABOUT THINGS  
 THAT MATTER**

### A rib tickler

After her husband was out late for a few nights, Eve was upset. "Are you out with other women?" she asked.  
 "Don't be unreasonable," replied Adam. "You're the only woman on earth."  
 The quarrel ended when Adam fell asleep.  
 When he awakened with pokes to the chest, he asked, "What are you doing?"  
 "Counting your ribs!" Eve said.

### Feed my sheep

When Katie Davis traveled to Uganda in 2006 to do mission work during her senior year of high school, she didn't expect to fall in love with the people and culture. She also didn't expect to return after graduation — or to adopt 13 orphans within a few years.

Davis, who details her adventures in *Kisses From Katie* (Howard Books), helps bring food, medical care, education and Jesus' love to hundreds of children while raising her 13 daughters. Yet she insists she's not particularly brave or strong. "I'm just doing what God called me to do as a follower of him," Davis says. "Feed his sheep, do unto the least of his people."

Although she's been exposed to diseases and deplorable conditions in Uganda, Davis willingly accepts the risks. "I'm much more terrified of living a comfortable life in a self-serving society and failing to follow Jesus than I am of any illness or tragedy," she writes. "I have yet to find where [Jesus] warned us to be safe."

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## Kindness counts

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Need some creative ideas for performing acts of kindness? Here are a few from [randomactsofkindness.org](http://randomactsofkindness.org):

- Make blankets or scarves for homeless people.
- Send a care package to someone who's in college or the military.
- Collect coins for a charity or cause.
- When you can't attend an event, give the tickets to strangers.
- Provide tutoring or mentoring in your field of expertise.
- Offer to babysit or pet-sit for free.
- Send a note of appreciation to someone who's made a difference in your life.
- Share your gifts of music, reading or conversation at a nursing home.
- Donate old sports equipment to schools.
- Give someone the benefit of the doubt — maybe even a family member or yourself!

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## Ode to Sunday

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Of all the days that's in the week  
I dearly love but one day,  
And that's the day that comes betwixt  
A Saturday and Monday.

—Henry Carey

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## Before all else fails ...

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In *Too Busy Not to Pray* (InterVarsity Press), Bill Hybels cites reasons that prayers may seem to go unanswered (unconfessed sin, selfishness and so on). The most common cause, though, is prayerlessness:

"People often tell me how they have attempted to address a pressing need," Hybels writes. "They have gone to counselors, read self-help books, claimed biblical promises, practiced self-discipline, confided in Christian friends, practiced assertiveness or submission or self-denial or positive thinking, even read books about prayer — and their need is still not met." But when asked if they've prayed "fervently and regularly" about the matter, the answer is usually no.

James 4:2 says, "You do not have because you do not ask God." So instead of thinking "When all else fails, pray," try this: "Pray before all else fails."

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## A great heart

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Great beauty, great strength and great riches are really and truly of no great use; a right heart exceeds all.

—Benjamin Franklin

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## A good start

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He who fritters away the early morning, its opportunity and freshness, in other pursuits than seeking God will make poor headway seeking him the rest of the day. If God is not first in our thoughts and efforts in the morning, he will be in the last place the remainder of the day.



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## Always doing a new thing

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In 2015, scientists discovered more than 18,000 new species — some ancient and extinct, others contemporary. They include a cartwheeling spider; fossils of a "feathered dinosaur"; a beautiful sea slug that photographs in brilliant blues, reds and golds; a Christmas-colored plant that grows in near isolation in Mexico; and a pufferfish whose males make intricate seafloor "crop circles" as spawning nests.

Such discoveries — regardless of how old or new the species are — demonstrate the ongoing creativity of God, who both does new things and gives people new abilities to discover them.

Recently, we began a new church year with Advent. At Christmas, God did a new thing by becoming human. Now we launch into a new calendar year, in which scientists will surely discover *more* new creatures. The newness all around us reminds us that God is always doing a new thing in *our* lives, too!

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## Resolve to revitalize

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Church revitalization is a hot topic, and ideas for congregations can bring fresh energy and meaning to personal and family life, too. Consider the following tips:

- **Have a clear vision.** It's easy to go along day to day without considering what you're moving toward. Beyond the everyday routine, what bigger vision does God have for you? This year, take specific steps toward living that out.
- **Ask questions.** What gets you excited — even passionate? What issues or situations break your heart? What are you good at? Resolve to use a talent or something you enjoy to help heal hurts.
- **Balance history with innovation.** Honor your past as God's gift that makes you who you are, but be open to change. Dare to step out in faith for the sake of your life's mission. Try something new in the spirit of the God who's always doing a new thing (Isaiah 43:19; Revelation 21:5).

The best way to revitalize a church might be to revitalize the lives of its individual members!

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Cobleskill, NY 12043

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Lawyersville, NY

**Sharon Reformed Church**

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Sharon Springs, NY 13459

physical address: 6858 St. Rte 10  
Sharon Springs, NY 13459

Office: (518)234-2387

**web site:** [www.lrcandsrc.org](http://www.lrcandsrc.org)

**Lawyersville Consistory**

ELDERS

\*Christine Hibbard - 234-3492 (2018)  
Kelly Sperbeck - 294-7198 (2016)  
Bonnie Tryon - 234-9130 (2018)

DEACONS

+ Lola Fletcher - 234-2283 (2017)  
Lisa Boss - 361-7797 (2017)  
Debbie Stanton - 234-3238 (2016)

\*Vice President  
+Chair of Deacons

**Sharon Consistory**

ELDERS

Laura Davenport - 705-0860 (2016)  
Linda DiCicco - 284-2250 (2015)  
\*Dan Fiske - 518-705-1469 (2015)  
Jill Cullen -864-5890 (2017)

DEACONS

+ Barbara Mereness 284-2474 (2015)  
AdrienneCullen 294-4363 (2015)  
Nancy MacFadden 708-4411(2015)  
Kathy Parsons 284-2332 (2016)

\*Vice President  
+Chairman of Deacons

Lawyersville Organist - Miss Ilene & Meta Watts

Lawyersville Treasurer - Kelly Sperbeck ..... 294-7198

Sharon Organist - Barbara Hall ..... 284-2056

Sharon Treasurer - Barbara Hall ..... 284-2056

Reformer - Lola Fletcher ..... 234-2283

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