

The Reformer

Lawyersville and Sharon Reformed Churches 172

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.

May 2016

What's Inside:

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



LRC - Church Service

9:00 A.M.

**Sunday School
following worship**

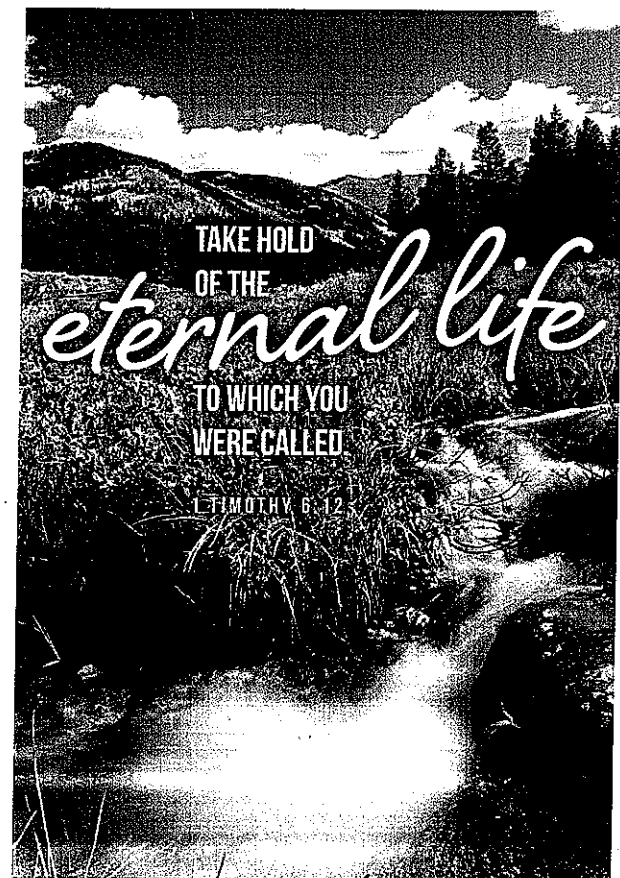
SRC - Church Service

11:00 A.M.

Sunday School

9:30 A.M.

Rev. Paul Ferenczy



Special dates

- Ascension of the Lord, *May 5, 2016*
- National Day of Prayer, *May 5, 2016*
- Mother's Day, *May 8, 2016*
- Pentecost, *May 15, 2016*
- Armed Forces Day, *May 21, 2016*
- Trinity Sunday, *May 22, 2016*
- Victoria Day (Canada), *May 23, 2016*
- Memorial Day, *May 30, 2016*

SOME CHARACTERISTICS ABOUT A SMALL CHURCH
THAT MAY OR MAY NOT BE TRUE by the Interim Pastor

(Over the years I have heard the following opinions expressed about the small church as opposed to the larger congregation. I share them with you for your thoughtful consideration.)

Find yourself a small church and you will find yourself closer to God.

A small church reflects more accurately what the New Testament Church was all about.

If people do not have the possibility of some kind of relationship to EVERY other person in the congregation, they can not experience "koinania". (Greek word for fellowship.)

A small church is where you can watch people grow and actually affect that growing.

In a small church as opposed to a large one, you can actually feel the hurt of another member and experience their joy. You can weep or rejoice with them. In a larger church you would not have that same opportunity.

In a small church the pastoral concern from the Pastor and Leaders is more reachable and available.

In a small church people are more likely to minister unto each other.

In a small church it is easier to encourage and assist people to have concern for one another. That is not as possible in a larger church. In other words, I can not really relate to everyone, or be concerned for everyone, if there are 500 everyones in my church.

The real success of the small church is found in the "pastoral ministry" being shared by all the individuals in the congregation. The pastor needs to be able to let go of duties and allow the people to do them, while s/he goes on to do ministries outside of the congregational limit.

What is often assigned to a "para-professional" in a large congregation, is done as a matter of church family life in a small congregation.

Evangelism in a small church often occurs in a visitation by a church member to a community member who is in the hospital or in need and it is often done not only in the name of the Lord, but also done as a "friendly gesture".

One disgruntled member can seriously hurt many more members while in the larger congregation that hurtful action may not even be known by everyone.

The leaving or arrival of a member is a dramatic experience for a small church and has great impact.

What do you think? Are the statements true, false or debatable? Would you rather be a member of a small church or a mega-church or something in between?

WHEN TO CALL THE PASTOR

Never quite sure about when you should call the pastor?

Below is a list of occasions when the pastor might be helpful.

- When there is a serious illness
- Before hospitalization or surgery
- When a new baby has arrived
- When death has occurred
- When you are anxious about someone else
- When a young person is about to leave home
- When there are domestic troubles
- When you face a difficult decision
- When you are bothered about your Christian faith
- When you are thinking about getting married
- When you want to make your life count for more
- Other.....

In doubt as to whether or not to call?.....please CALL If you do not call, we do not know. Pastor 827-7884

Ruth — a Pentecost story?

The disciples were celebrating Pentecost, originally a Jewish festival, when the Holy Spirit descended on them and birthed the church. Pentecost, which began as a harvest festival, had come to commemorate the giving of the law. The book of Ruth became integral to festival worship.

Why Ruth? This short story doesn't mention the law, let alone God giving it to Moses. Yet in Ruth's devotion to her mother-in-law ("Where you go I will go Your people will be my people ... " [Ruth 1:16, NIV]), she fulfills not just the letter but the spirit of the law: lovingkindness — all the more remarkable because she's a foreigner. Boaz, too, demonstrates exorbitant kindness to Ruth.

As Christians celebrate the Spirit bridging differences in Jerusalem, uniting all nationalities by making the gospel message intelligible to all people, we too can remember Ruth's story. For in it, God unites two enemy peoples for his grand purpose: Boaz and Ruth's marriage leads to King David and, ultimately, to King Jesus. Today, the Holy Spirit continues to unite all categories of people under Christ's reign for the good of the world.

The gladdest thing

Turn around and believe that the good news that we are loved is better than we ever dared hope, and that to believe in that good news, to live out of it and toward it, to be in love with that good news, is of all glad things in this world the gladdest thing of all.

—Frederick Buechner, *The Clown in the Belfry*

"God Is the Fountain"

God is the fountain whence
ten thousand blessings flow;
to him my life, my health and friends,
and every good, I owe.

The comforts he affords
are neither few nor small;
he is the source of fresh delights,
my portion and my all.

He fills my heart with joy,
my lips attunes for praise;
and to his glory I'll devote
the remnant of my days.

—Benjamin Beddome

Faith and love

The two chief things are faith and love. Faith receives the good; love gives the good. Faith offers us God as our own; love gives us to our neighbor as his own.



Prayer Requests

Church

Jean Wormuth/stroke/ Cobleskill hospital
 Muriel Homes/St. Johnsville Nursing Home
 Debbie Stanton/knee surgery/recovering
 Steve DiCicco/hip pain/pending surgery
 Jo King/Pneumonia/bronchitis/improving
 Jan Liberti/chemo treatments

Family/Loved Ones

Margaret Springstead/cancer on face
 Mauric Sperbeck/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

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 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

Procrastinators

A pastor waited in line to have his car filled with gas just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but many cars were ahead of the pastor at the service station. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump.

"Sorry about the delay," said the young man. "Everyone seems to wait until the last minute to get ready for a long trip."

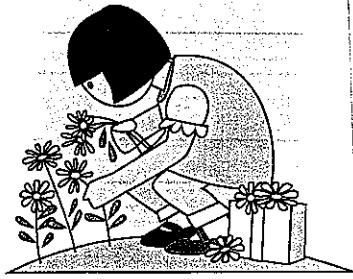
The pastor chuckled, "I know what you mean. It's the same in my business."

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

Always with us

Forty days after Easter, we celebrate Jesus' ascension into heaven. This occurred 10 days before Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus' followers, as he had promised.

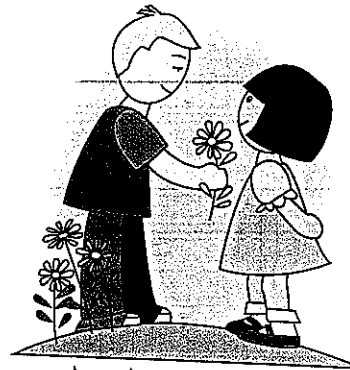
Jesus' ascension reminds Christians that although his body couldn't remain present everywhere, we can universally experience his spiritual presence. In fact, Jesus' final words to his disciples — and to us — contain this key promise: "I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20, ESV).



MAY BIRTHDAYS

MAY

- 9 Charlene Wilder
- 13 Deylon Davenport
- 13 Mary Lee Slater
- 14 Pat Van Deusen
- 14 Lois Wright
- 15 Mildred Ericken
- 19 Joan Palmer
- 24 Jo King
- 25 Ryan Makarowski



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

May

NONE



**WHEN
YOU CAN'T
PUT YOUR
PRAYERS
INTO WORDS,
GOD HEARS
YOUR
PRAYERS**



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

MEMO BOARD

May

1,8,15,22,29

30 @ May 1

Doors open for donations for LRC/RCWM Rummage Sale
Hall open for donations for sale/Sat & Sun

6-7 LRC Rummage and Bake sale – Fri – 9-3 Sat – 9-1

10 Help needed Mon & Tues to set up Baked goods needed for Fri

10 SRC Consistory meeting: Elders/Deacons @ 5 P.M.

Total consistory @ 5:30 P.M.

16 SRC/RCWM @ 6:30 P.M.

19 LRC Consistory @ 5:15 P.M.

Of greatest worth

Not what I get, but
what I give,
this be the gauge by
which I live.
Not merely joys that
come my way,
but the help I give to those astray.
Not the rewards of money and fame,
but the loads I lift in mankind's name.
This be the pay at the end of the day,
not what I keep, but what I give away.

give!

—Author unknown

◦ "Nothing is too great and nothing is too small to commit into the hands of the Lord."

—A.W. Pink

• "A mother knows what her child's gone through, even if she didn't see it herself."

—Pramoedyana Ananta Toer

• "We are not here to be successful. We are here to be faithful."

—Mother Teresa

2016 CROP HUNGER WALK

2016 Schoharie County Aggie Scott Memorial CROP Walk will begin at the Zion Luther Church on Main Street, across the street from the Cobleskill Fire Department on Sunday, May 4th. Registration begins at 1:00 P.M., and the actual Walk will start at 1:30 P.M., rain or shine. The route is a 2.5 mile course that people can walk once, or twice, if they want the traditional five-mile Walk. Senior citizens and families with strollers and small children are welcome to participate in the fundraiser, and are not obligated to walk the entire route; but rather, they may walk as short a distance as they choose. Crossing guards in CROP Walk vests will be at busy intersections and crosswalks.

The CROP Walk is an annual local fundraiser originally created by Church World Service to support anti-hunger programs throughout the world. 25% of all money collected will remain in Schoharie County and be divided equally between the food pantries at the Cobleskill United Methodist Church and Catholic Charities of Schoharie County. Last year 93 CROP walkers collected \$6884.47, providing a total of \$1,189.28 shared by the food pantries at Cobleskill UMC and Catholic Charities of Schoharie County. The needs of the local food pantries continues to grow in leaps and bounds, as the family bread-winners become unemployed, residents still suffering the effects of flooding from Irene and Lee, and now the government funding cuts at the federal, state and local levels. The remaining 75% of the resources collected are used responding to emergencies in the U.S. and around the world.

Here are some startling statistics: every day almost 16,000 children die from hunger-related causes – one child every five seconds; over one billion people (about 1/6 of the world) do not have access to safe water and 2.4 billion lack improved sanitation; 1.1 billion people are forced to survive on less than a dollar a day and almost 50% of the world's population forced to live on less than two dollars a day and over 800 million people – almost three times the population of the U.S. are undernourished, meaning they do not get enough food to lead active, healthy lives. The CWS provides nurturing development at the grassroots level with seeds, tools and homegrown strategies; assisting refugees to return home, when possible, and to find other viable options, when not; speaking out in partnership on issues that make a difference in the lives of hungry people; food security so parents can reliably feed their families and water for all so that families have safe water for drinking, household needs and farming. CROP Hunger Walks reach out to neighbors in need near and far – not with a hand out, but a hand up.

Anyone with questions about the CROP Walk, or to obtain walker packets, can call John Jarvis of the Arrangements Committee at (518) 234-2933.

Anyone wishing to Donate on-line may do so. Go to Schoharie County Aggie Scott Memorial Crop walk and make your donations.
Put Lee Empie ON request.