

The Reformer

Lawyersville and Sharon Reformed Churches 186

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 2017

What's Inside:

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

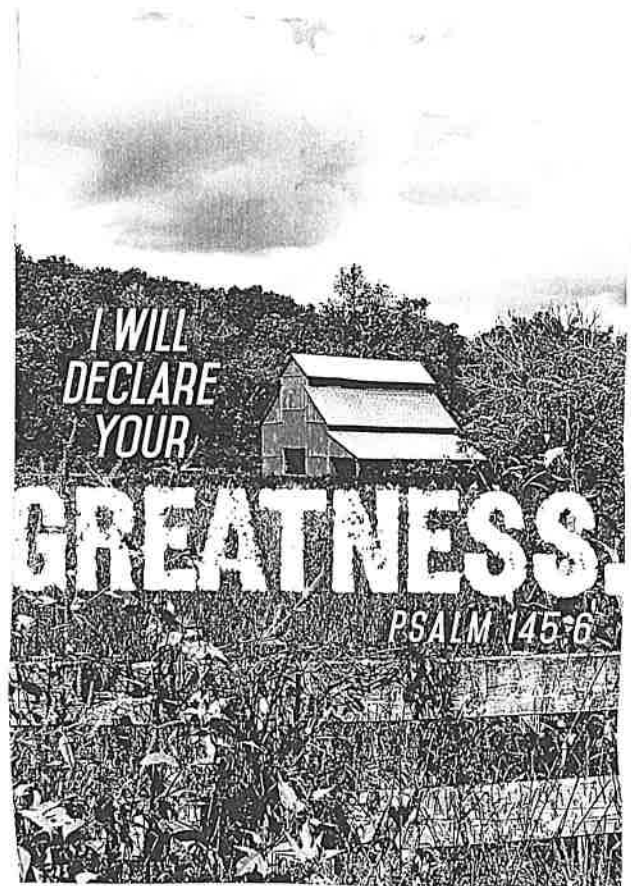


LRC - Church Service
9:00 A.M.

SRC - Church Service
11:00 A.M.

Sunday School
9:30 A.M.

Rev. Paul Ferenczy



Special dates

- Labor Day, September 4, 2017
- National Grandparents Day, September 10, 2017
- Patriot Day, September 11, 2017
- Hispanic Heritage Month, Sept. 15-Oct. 15, 2017
- First day of autumn, September 22, 2017

September 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					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

October 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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				

Asking the Right Questions

Here are some observations by Martin B. Copenhaver that caught my attention and I asked permission to share them with you.

"No eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love God." - 1 Corinthians 2:9

Nostalgia is a particular temptation these days for those who care about the church and see the church changing in ways that can look a lot like diminishment. We hear, or find ourselves thinking, "The church is not what it once was. The church used to be stronger, more vital. The best days are behind us." Or so nostalgia whispers in our ear.

Nostalgia can be our response to what I call "the narrative of decline." According to this narrative, the church is not what it once was. It is in decline. We hear this narrative all the time these days, but I, for one, am weary of it. The narrative of decline not only is a boring narrative, it doesn't draw the best from us. It invites blame: Who got us into this situation?

By contrast, we can ask, "What is God is up to in our time?" That's a very different question. It invites our imaginations. It calls us to be faithful.

As Christians we are assured that the good old days, no matter how good, are nothing compared to what God has in store for us. Paul quotes Isaiah to remind the Corinthians, and perhaps also to remind himself: "No eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him."

So look back, yes. But lean forward. God is up to something new in our time. It is up to us to discern what that is, and to get with the program.

It's time for us to ask God to help us to look back in ways that that help us to move forward into the future that God has prepared for us.

Why God watches

An English bishop recalled a childhood visit to an elderly woman, who showed him a framed text that read "Thou God seest me."

The woman told him, "When you're older, people will tell you that God is always watching you to see when you do wrong, in order to punish you. I don't want you to think of it that way. Instead, take the text home and remember all your life that God loves you so much he can't take his eyes off you."

What's your calling?

When you have a sense of calling – whether it's to be a musician, soloist, artist, in one of the technical fields or a plumber – there is something deep and enriching when you realize it isn't just a casual choice; it's a divine calling. [That's] not limited to vocational Christian service, by any means.

—Charles R. Swindoll



BEST WISHES TO THE NEWLYWEDS
FOR ALL OF THE ADVENTURES THAT ARE TO COME





Prayer Requests

Church

Sympathy and prayers for family and friends of James Bixby
Jean Wormuth/stroke/home
Muriel Homes/St. Johnsville Nursing Home

Jan Liberti/new chemo treatments
Joe King/nursing home

Family/Loved Ones

Margaret Springstead/health issues
3Ava Baker/2 year old/brain tumor
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
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

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.

• "Don't worry about failures. Worry about the chances you miss when you don't even try."

—Jack Canfield

• "I teach Sunday school. What's your superpower?"

—Unknown

• "Nothing great in the world has been accomplished without passion."

—Georg Hegel

LRC Memorial funds were distributed to:

The American Heart Association in memory of Evelyn "Evie" Garber

The Catskill Area Hospice in memory of Rev. Jared van Wagenen IV

The American Heart Association in memory of Craig Erickson

Middleburgh Ambulance Service in memory of James Bixby

NBT Scholarship Fund in memory of Warren Comins

In loving memory of Rev. Wil Ivins we are helping with the cost of the cemetery monument.

UPPER ROOM

We will be discontinuing the selling of the "Upper Room" as of December. With the increase in price again and the very few that are being purchased, we have decided to stay with the free "Daily Bread" devotionals.

If you want to receive your own personal subscription to the Upper Room, here is the information: Upper Room is \$13.99 a year—Regular or large print. You get 6 booklets a year.

Call 1-800-972-0433. They will bill you or you can pay with a credit card over the phone.

Benevolent Fund

Monies that were given to people or projects:

Joshua Project/food and backpack and school supplies in 2016

Community Scap Project Program for school supplies and backpacks in 2017

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: September 20th Thanks to all for your information and contributions.

MEMO BOARD

September
3,10,17,24

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

30 & Oct 1
2-4

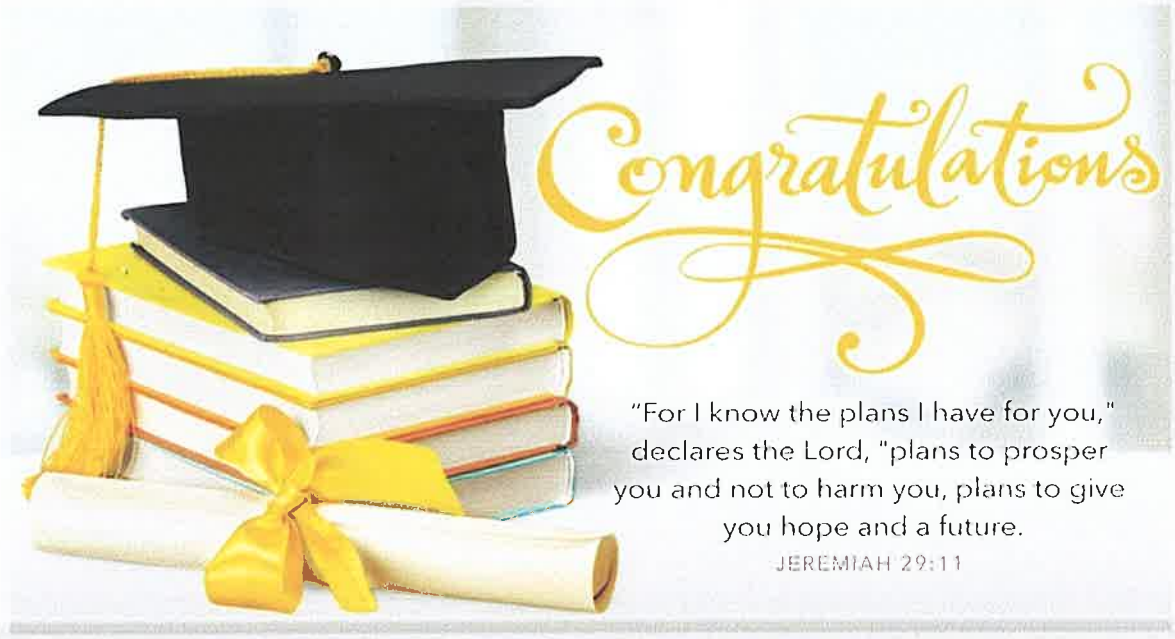
LRC Hall open to bring items for Rummage Sale
Set-up for sale/Help needed @ 9 A.M.

5 & 6 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.
Readings and Music

All from the Community are welcome



**Scholarships provided to students attending
College from our church
Scholarship are from the Holmes/Hodge Families
Scholarship from Rev. Deitz Family
Each student received \$650 first year
And \$350 second year = \$1000
To be used towards books and supplies**

2017 GRADUATES

Eric Bates - Son of Dan & Mary Bates

Attending Clarkson University Projected Graduation Date 2019
Pursuing a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering.
Dream someday to work for John Deere.

Sarah Bates - Daughter of Dan & Mary Bates

Attending Springfield College Projected Graduation Date 2021
Pursuing a career in sports medicine field
Focus on the athletes and the quality of their lives after their
athletic career.

Meghan Keaney-- Daughter of James & Michelle Keaney

Attending Suny Oswego Projected Graduation Date 2021
Majoring in Cinema & Screen studies.
Hoping to work in movies and film

Nathaniel Shurt - Son of Tina Ward & Ted Shurt

Attending Suny Cobleskill Projected Graduation Date of 2021
Studying Graphic Design & Technology

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





September

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

September

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



WHEN
YOU COME TO
THE END
OF YOUR
ROPE,
TIE A KNOT
AND
HANG ON.



Names that bear witness

Nigerian couple Sam and Mary Ayeni gave their three girls names that reflect God's wondrous ways. The first-born is named Marvelous to declare that God blessed the couple with a daughter as well as a much-needed job.

Next to arrive were conjoined twins Miracle and Testimony. "When I first saw them the way they were, I said it is a miracle that they are alive," recounts their mother. "When God did that miracle, I would surely give testimony." Indeed, God continued to work wonders.

The family was flown to Tennessee, where the twins were successfully separated just shy of their first birthday. Local groups, churches and countless individuals have supported the family with material goods, living space, groceries, friendship and prayer. As of this writing, the girls are making strong progress. One is nearly walking, and the other talks nonstop. Her favorite words, learned from big sister Marvelous, are "Amen!" and "Hallelujah!"

A taste of heaven

When an admirer asked renowned pianist Vladimir Horowitz how he could play so beautifully, he's said to have replied that anyone could play the notes, but the true music lay in the pauses between them. The same can be said of life.

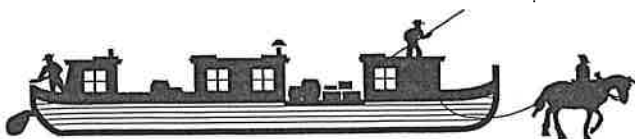
Rabbi Evan Moffic (*Shalom for the Heart*) writes, "It is in the pauses – the rests, the spaces in between – that meaning is made and that holiness is felt." Nowadays we keep so busy there's hardly a pause or space in our day.

"But that's not the way God created us [or] the world," Moffic continues. "God worked, then rested. God created, then paused. ... Thus, our Sabbath is the day when we can marvel at the beauty of the world God created. It is the day we enjoy what the ancient sages called 'a taste of heaven.' It is a day when we stop thinking about the *what* of life and remind ourselves of the *why* of life."

Slow but steady

There is progress in a Christian's life when he may not seem to be going ahead – like a canal boat in a lock, when it stands still but is rising all the time.

–D.L. Moody



A sign of what's to come

When God is about to do something great, he starts with a difficulty.

When he is about to do something truly magnificent, he starts with an impossibility.

–Armin Gesswein

God's left hand

A 6-year-old and his grandma went for a walk one autumn day. "Look at the gorgeous leaves!" Grandma exclaimed. "Just think, God painted each one of them just for us!"

"Yep," said her grandson, "and he did it left-handed."

Perplexed, Grandma asked, "Why do you think God used his left hand to create all this beauty?"

"Because," said the boy matter-of-factly, "we learned in Sunday school that Jesus sits on God's right one."

"You'll never find a rainbow looking down."

Charlie Chaplin

"If you don't like the road you're on, start paving another one."

Dolly Parton

"When you are totally at peace with yourself, nothing can shake you."

Deepam Chatterjee

"Be a good listener. Your ears will never get you in trouble."

Frank Tyger

You deserve a little lift! Happiness is helping someone else up the hill.

Emma Ferris

Kid's Page

APPLE SNACKS



These healthy chips make a yummy back-to-school snack.

What you need:

- 4 apples, cored and cut into 1/8" rings
- Large bowl
- Spoon
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- Baking sheets (sprayed)

What you do:

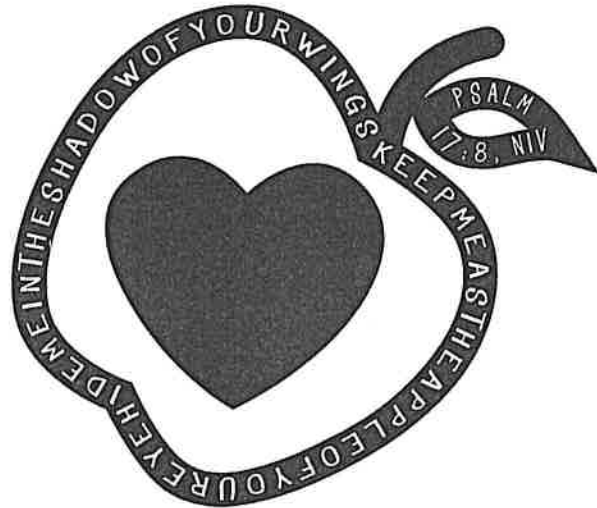
1. Place apple slices in the bowl. Add cinnamon and sugar. Stir so apples are coated evenly with the mixture.
2. Place apple slices on the sprayed baking sheets in a single layer.
3. Bake at 200 degrees for two to three hours, until chips are dry but still slightly soft.



APPLE OF HIS EYE

Start each school day by remembering God's loving care for you.

Directions: Starting at the K by the stem and going clockwise, circle each word. Then place the words in the blanks to complete Psalm 17:8.



“ _____
 _____;

 _____.”

PSALM 17:8, NIV

Answer: "Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings." Psalm 17:8, NIV