

The Reformer

Lawyersville and Sharon Reformed Churches 166

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 2015

What's Inside:

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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.

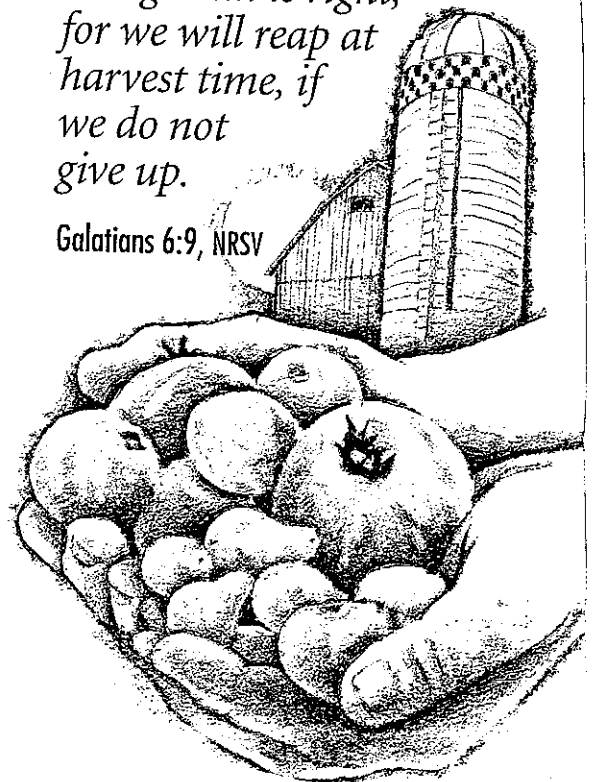
Sunday School

9:30 A.M.

Rev. Pacia Vamvas

*So let us not grow weary in
doing what is right,
for we will reap at
harvest time, if
we do not
give up.*

Galatians 6:9, NRSV



• "I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers."
—L.M. Montgomery, in *Anne of Green Gables*

• "Every leaf speaks bliss to me, fluttering from the
autumn tree."

—Emily Brontë

Special dates

- World Communion Sunday, *October 4, 2015*
- Columbus Day Observance, *October 12, 2015*
- Reformation Sunday, *October 25, 2015*
- Reformation Day, *October 31, 2015*

pastor pacia's ponderings

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away..." (Revelation 21.1)

It was September 16. I was working in my study. I thought I'd heard "Jingle Bells" on the television. Yep! Kmart was advertising for their Christmas lay-away program. I haven't even seen Halloween costume commercials yet! Rush. We rush.

Rush to get to the store when there are only 50 units of a sale item. Rush to pick up from school, rush to cheer practice, rush to MacDonald's, rush to Karate lesson. Rush to finalize fiscal end of year reports. Rush to the store before it closes to pick up something that will tell your spouse "Honey, how could I possibly forget our anniversary?!" I received the November issue of Our Daily Bread ten days before the month of October begins.

Have you also noticed people are pushing carts in the store faster, as if they are one of those old shows. Remember? You had five minutes to grab anything you wanted. By my observation, school buses are rushing. The driver of the school bus that picks up our neighbors' children waits maybe 30 seconds if someone is not right there at the stop. Just recently three students made the bus only by running through the park while the bus was stopped to pick up the next student.

Someone noted the difference - Italian drivers, drive fast; for them it's all about speed, because they like to; drivers in the U.S. drive fast; but it's all about time, because they have to.

With all this rushing around, generally there is one place we're in no rush to get to - heaven.

Even Christians, who look to eternal life, often are not at all in a rush. A very wise woman, at 104 years said, "I know heaven is my home, but honey - I ain't homesick!"

In my time at Hospice as a Chaplain, I would encounter people of deep faith who were terrified of what would happen to them after they took their last breath. Also, though, I witnessed patients ready and eager to go. One, a man who was not a Christian, was moved by a book, The Next Place. When I got to the end of the book, his eyes got real wide, and he asked me to please read it again. Another man, who was a Christian, lived in a "back-in-the-day" trailer park. At one point I stopped talking because he had an expression of pure joy while looking at the window at the next door, rickety trailer. "It's so beautiful!"

Well, we might not be homesick for heaven. By our heavenly home is all ready, even if we don't rush. grace and peace, pacia

October Worship

10.04.15 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost (green)

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Job 1.1; 2.1-10

Hebrews 1.1-4, 2.5-12

Psalm 26

Mark 10.2-16 +

10.11.15 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost (green)

Lay Sunday/Living Gospel Ministry

Job 23.1-9, 16-17

Hebrews 4.12-16

Psalm 22.1-15

Mark 10.17-31 +

10.18.15 Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost (green)

Job 38.1-7, (34-41)

Hebrews 5.1-10

Psalm 104.1-9, 24, 35

Mark 10.35-45 +

Lay Leader Lisa Boss

10.25.15 Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost (green)

Job 42.1-6, 10-17

Hebrews 7.23-28

Psalm 34.1-8, (19-22)

Mark 10.46-52 +

Lay Leader Lisa Boss

Website

Reminder of some of the many uses for the Website – a greeting, general info on the churches, to check the Lectionary texts (current and future Lord's Days), to check the date of the next Consistory meeting, Consistory members and terms of office, access to the Sunday Message (current and past), a link to the Regional Synod of Albany, the RCA (Reformed Church in America), CRTC (Capital Region Theological Center), and Camp Fowler.

Silent Angels

It is good to periodically recognize the many, mainly behind the scenes angels who serve the kingdom of God by tending to the needs of the congregations. Some of those services: planting and maintaining flower gardens and flower pots, putting together the Reformer, printing the Reformer on a monthly basis, and the bulletin on a weekly basis, mowing, weeding and maintaining property, building and setting out signs near the road, building the free produce booth, contributing to the booth, delivering Food Party items, cleaning the sanctuary, maintaining changeable signs, baking pies for the Auction, setting up and running Rummage Sales and the Christmas Bazaar. As varied as these services are, one thing remains constant – they are done on a volunteer basis. Think of how already stretched budgets would be nearly broken to pay for all these services. "Well done, good and faithful servants!"

"The Safest Place/How to Stay Safe in the World Today"

1. Avoid riding in automobiles because they are responsible for 20% of all fatal crashes.
2. Do not stay at home because 17% of all accidents occur in the home.
3. Avoid walking on streets or sidewalks because 14% of all accidents occur to pedestrians.
4. Avoid traveling by air, rail, or water because 16% off all accidents involve these forms of transportation.
5. Of the remaining 33%, 32% of all deaths occur in hospitals. So, above all else, avoid hospitals.

But...You will be pleased to learn that only .001% of all deaths occur in worship services, and these are usually related to previous physical disorders. Therefore, logic tells us that the safest place for you at any given time is at church!

And, Bible Study is safe, too! The percentage of deaths during Bible Study is even less.

So...attend worship and read your Bible. It could save your life!

Giving it all

A meager but meaningful donation recently made news at a church in Charlotte, North Carolina. In the collection plate one Sunday was an envelope with 18 cents and this message: "Please don't be mad. I don't have much. I'm homeless. God bless."



Pastor Patrick Hamrick was able to locate the donor to thank him in person. But the man wanted to stay anonymous, saying the gift was between him, the church and God.

The pastor praised the donor's bravery, saying, "We gratefully acknowledge that this individual, out of his poverty, has given all he had to live on." Like the widow's mite in the New Testament (see Mark 12:41-44), the 18 cents was truly a sacrificial gift.

A simmering idea

During a lesson on 1 Kings 18, a Sunday school teacher explained the confrontation between the prophet Elijah and the false prophets of Baal. He described how Elijah built the altar, placed wood on it, prepared the bull, laid it on the altar and instructed God's people to pour water over the altar.

"Now," the teacher asked, "can anyone tell me why they would've poured water over the animal?"

A girl eagerly raised her hand and answered, "To make the gravy!"

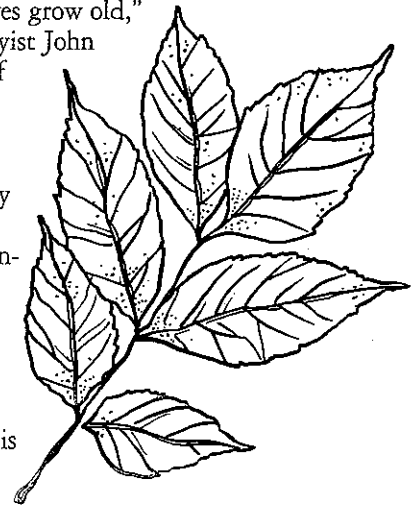
The beauty of growing old

"How beautifully leaves grow old," wrote 19th-century essayist John Burroughs. "How full of light and color are their last days."

Society doesn't think highly of old age. Beauty products tout the supposed virtues of maintaining a youthful appearance. Older adults' wisdom, born of much life experience, is often disparaged, ignored or not sought. But God says this about the righteous, whose lives are rooted in him: "In old age they still produce fruit; they are always green and full of sap, showing that the LORD is upright" (Psalm 92:14-15, NRSV).

The aging leaves of autumn can prompt us to look for beauty in the seniors among us, to notice the "light and color" that still abound. From all the fruit they still produce — service, prayer, love — may we learn about living faithfully until our own "last days."

—Heidi Mann





Prayer Requests

Church

Lee Empie, Jr./cardiac surgery/rehab
 June Slater/compression fracture
 Muriel Homes/St. Johnsville Nursing Home
 Helen Brown/Palatine Nursing Home/
 declining
 Elli Schubert/cardiac
 Rena Cooper/surgery recuperation
 Karl Cooper/back

Family/Loved Ones

Paul Kleinberger/bone cancer
 Gregory Kleinberger/difficult time
 Daniel Mereness (8 years old)/Stroke/in re-
 hab/improving
 Richard Nirschl/ testing/St. Johnsville Nurs-
 ing Home
 Ray Steidle/Nursing home
 Debbie Steidle/Parkinson's
 Bob Speidell/retinopathy
 Robert Speidell/ blot clot in heart
 Scott Speidell/Hairy Cell Leukemia
 Sherri Ann Huerta/Hepatitis C
 Patty Lowry/back injury recuperation
 Liam/Spina Bifida/testing
 Sue Jones/Marchand Manor
 Dodi Chechniki/ALS
 Mike Bautochka/mass on thyroid, pneumo-
 nia

Community

Our sisters and brothers in Christ from the Dorloo,
 Hyndsville, Mineral Springs and Warnerville United
 Methodist Churches
 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
 Hatred and violence in the hearts of God's children
 The global economy
 All unrest in God's world
 Local, state national and world leaders
 Peacemaker groups
 Government dysfunction

*There is a group of pray-ers who receive prayer
 requests. If you would like to be added to either list
 (phone or e-mail), simply contact pastor pacia
 (234.9811 or PASTORPACIA@LRCANDSRC.ORG).

**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.**



OCTOBER

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

OCTOBER

- 4 Jim & Jill Cullen
- 16 Jim & Margaret Bixby
- 18 Fred & Betsy Rehl



"I hope you don't think I'm presumptuous.
I died at a costume party."



Unprecedented love

Whether you understand it or not, God loves you, is present in you, lives in you, dwells in you, calls you, saves you and offers you an understanding and compassion which are like nothing you have ever found in a book or heard in a sermon.

—Thomas Merton, *The Hidden Ground of Love*

Faith statement

I believe in the God of fruit time and harvest, who makes the land to bear gifts in its time and fills our tables with the bounty of his hand;

I believe in Jesus Christ his Son, who was the first fruit of those that slept, and brings us to spiritual tables where our cups are always full;

I believe in the Holy Spirit, who causes us to remember all for which we are grateful and teaches us to see a relationship between our gifts and the giver;

I believe in the world as the arena of my spiritual life, where I am to share hospitality with the stranger; for in so doing I shall fulfill the desires of him who has given me everything, and of his Son and the Holy Spirit.

—John Killinger, *Lost in Wonder, Love and Praise*

The B-I-B-L-E

I have worked at the Bible, prayed over the Bible, lived by the Bible for more than 60 years, and I tell you there is no book like the Bible. It is a miracle of literature, a perennial spring of wisdom, a wonder-book of surprises, a revelation of mystery, an infallible guide of conduct and an unspeakable source of comfort.

Give no heed to people who discredit it, for they speak without knowledge. It is the Word of God in the inspired speech of humanity. Read it for yourself. Read it thoroughly. Study it according to its own directions. Live by its principles. Believe its message. Follow its precepts.

No man is uneducated who knows the Bible, and no man is wise who is ignorant of its teachings. Every day is begun at its open page. It lies close at hand in all my work. I never go anywhere without it, and it is my chief joy.

—Samuel Chadwick