

The Reformer

Lawyersville and Sharon Reformed Churches 162

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.

April 2015

What's Inside:

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**

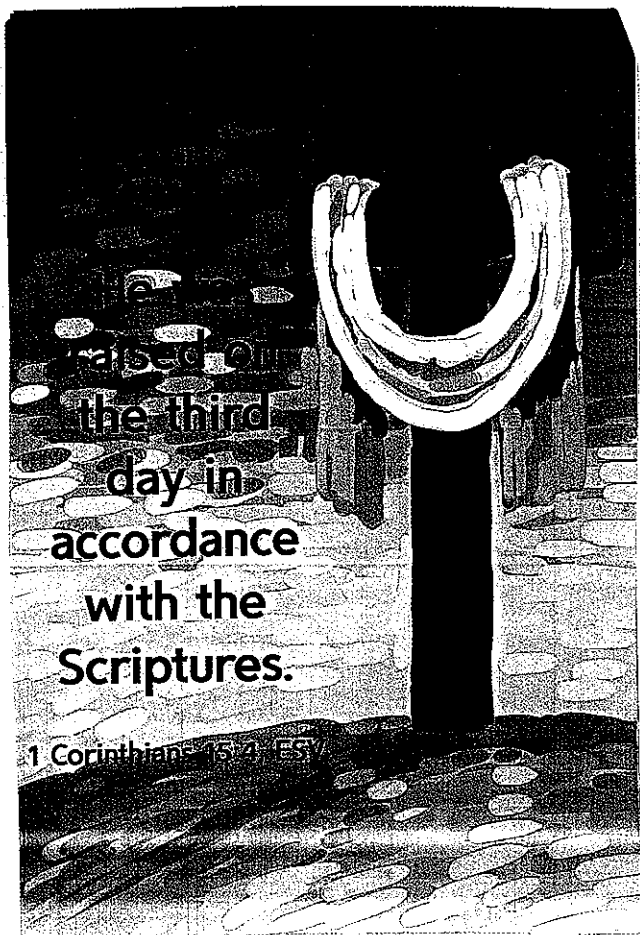
SRC - Church Service

11:00 A.M.

Sunday School

9:30 A.M.

Rev. Pacia Vamvas



Special dates

- Maundy/Holy Thursday, April 2, 2015
- Good Friday, April 3, 2015
- Holy Saturday, April 4, 2015
- Easter Sunday, April 5, 2015
- Administrative Professionals Day, April 22, 2015

pastor pacia's ponderings

I grew up on the Jersey Shore, about eight miles from Asbury Park. I have vivid memories about the Paramount Theater (I saw Sound of Music on its giant screen), the Boardwalk, and the Easter Day Parade, with hundreds of participants. There were awards for the best outfits; there were also awards for the best hats. I could not possibly have won that contest; when I was a child, I despised hats. I have a dim memory of declaring to my mother that I was not going to wear "that" hat for Easter, thank you very much. Not wearing a hat on Easter was the equivalent of wearing a bathing suit to church (even though the Catholic Church open only in the summer, located right near the beach in Manasquan somewhat relaxed that rule). In my mother's Roman Catholic tradition, a woman's head had to be covered (who remembers that pretty lace mantilla or doily thing-a-ma-gig)?

Those of you who know me now might be thinking "Is that the same Pacia I know?" Now I am never without a hat; it's my signature. I'm trying to bring back a fashion trend. I'm failing miserably, but having a lot of fun in the meantime!

It's sometimes fun to look back on the things in your life that have changed over years. Some of my favorite childhood foods: Spam, Scrapple (even worse than Spam) bologna, TV dinners (a rare treat), sugared cereals (an even rarer treat), the years. Some of my favorite childhood foods: Spam, worse marshmallows, soda, char-broiled hot dogs, packaged pot pies. Sugary juices, Pringles, Chef Boyardee Ravioli. None of those, except an occasional soda, appeal to me anymore. My tastes have drastically changed.

There is so much change in our lives. Some are small, though they might appear big. Changing a tagline of a company. Staples went from "That was easy!" to

"Make more happen." Have to admit – not happy about that change. Sometimes it is a significant change. There was a heart-wrenching video recently on the Internet, showing a two-year-old have a major meltdown when she found out she had a brand-new baby sister.

We change eating habits, change passwords, change addresses. We change when we experience a new house, a new job, a new demographic status.

It's even harder when that change is thrust upon us – losing a job, receiving a scary diagnosis, burying a loved one. Changes in technology come so quickly, one after the other, which can make it hard for folks (and when I say folks, I mean me) to keep up. I recently utilized technology in a way I would not have expected. I was walking down a dark, unfamiliar hallway, wanting to leave a book for someone. Because the hallway was so dark, I wasn't able to see the room number. So, I walked back my room, fetched my phone, turned on the flashlight app, and was able to see the door I wanted.

With so much change, we may feel that we have lost our way. Our Lenten Series is on the "I Am" statements of Jesus, found in the Gospel of John – John 6.27-59 - "I Am the Bread of Life"; 7.2-14 & 8.12 - "I Am the Light of the World"; 10.1-10 - "I Am the Good Shepherd"; 11.17-26 - "I Am the Resurrection and the Life"; 14.1-7 - "I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life". 8.12 - "I Am the Light of the World. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." Jesus is the light that will never waver. John 1.3b-5: "What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." In this world of dizzying change we can be assured of the unwavering light of Jesus in our lives. Hebrews 13.8 - "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

Jesus' disciples, who had followed him for three years, and entered Jerusalem with great joy, deserted at the time he most needed them. That Friday was not in any way "good" for them. As we follow Jesus through the jubilation of Palm Sunday to the dark reality of that Friday we now dare to call "Good", remember this: "When things seem darkest, wait three days." Form the hymn Abide with Me, "O Lord who changest not, abide with me". Many Easter blessings to you all. grace and peace, pacia

April Worship

04.02.15 Maundy Thursday (remove color)

Exodus 12.1-4, (5-10), 11-14

Psalms 116.1-2, 12-19

1 Corinthians 11.23-26

John 13.1-17, 1-35 +

04.03.15 Good Friday (no color)

Isaiah 52.13-53.12

Psalms 22

Hebrews 10.16-25 or

Hebrews 4.14-16, 5.7-9

John 18.1-19.42

04.05.14 (LRC) The Resurrection of our Lord (white)

Acts 10.34-43 or Isaiah 25.6-9

Psalms 118.1-2, 14-21

1 Corinthians 15.1-11

John 20.1-18 or Mark 16.1-8

Easter Program

John 19.16-18

Luke 24.1-11

04.05.14 (SRC) The Resurrection of our Lord (white)

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Acts 10.34-43 or Isaiah 25.6-9

Psalms 118.1-2, 14-24

1 Corinthians 15.1-11

John 20.1-18 or Mark 16.1-18 +

Lay Leader Dan Fiske

04.12.15 Second Sunday of Easter (white)

Acts 4. 32-35 +

Psalms 133

1 John 1.1-2.2 +

John 20.19-31

Lay Leaders LRC Chris Hibbard SRC Dan Fiske

04.19.15 Third Sunday of Easter (white)

Acts 3.12-19 +

Psalms 4

1 John 3.1-7 +

Luke 24.36-48

Lay Leaders LRC Chris Hibbard SRC Kaena Davenport

04.26.15 Fourth Sunday of Easter (white)

Acts 4.5-12 +

Psalms 23

1 John 3.16-24 +

John 10.11-18

Lay Leaders LRC Lola Fletcher SRC Kaena Davenport

+ The text(s) pastor pacia plans to use for the next Lord's Day, for the proclamation of the Word of God.

For the last three weeks of the month, the Scripture reading will include the texts from Acts. Acts was written by the same writer as the Gospel of Luke.

Luke 1.1-1-4: "Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, ² just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, ³ I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed."

And, Acts 1.1-3: "In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God."

These texts will be read only, to get a brief glimpse of the life of the early Church.



APRIL

- 9 Patrick Butler
- 13 Amelia Butler
- 20 James Keaney
- 22 Hunter Cullen
- 22 Daniel Parsons
- 23 Kathy Venette
- 27 Jim Bixby
- 27 Melissa Makarowski
- 30 John Tryon

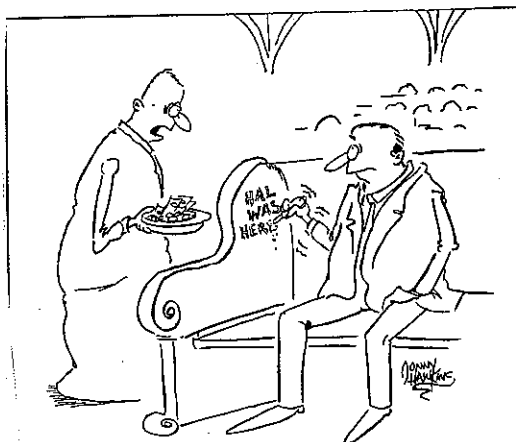


APRIL

No Anniversaries



**YOU
CAN'T REACH
FOR ANYTHING
NEW IF YOUR
HANDS ARE
STILL FULL OF
YESTERDAY'S
JUNK!**



"We'd prefer that you fill out your name in our guest ledger."

Just the beginning

As John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus, he baptized people and urged them to turn their lives around and live for God. As powerful as this ritual was, John was clear that Jesus' baptism would be more so: "I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit" (Mark 1:8, NIV).

The story is told of a gruff old man who'd resisted baptism all his life. Finally, he told his pastor he was ready to be baptized, according to the church's custom, that Christmas. After breaking the ice off the surface of the local pond, the minister plunged the man, face first, into the frigid water three times "in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit."

As the man emerged the third time, he exclaimed, "Thank God that's over!"

"Oh, no," replied the pastor. "Baptism is just the beginning."

Party time

My mother's 100th birthday party was definitely an occasion to celebrate. We invited relatives and neighbors, prepared favorite foods and helped her pick out an elegant outfit. After all, she'd been anticipating this milestone for a long time.

Mom was excited about her party, yet not much else interests her anymore. When I visit, I notice that her daily routine has slowed to a crawl. It's lackluster and tedious. She waits for someone to call, for dinner or bedtime. The details and problems that were once a big part of Mom's life are no longer important.

There's one thing, though, that Mom does anticipate: her homecoming with God sometime soon. She knows an amazing celebration will occur when she arrives. She'll wear another lovely outfit, too. This time it will be a garment of salvation and righteousness that Jesus purchased for her. It will be the best party of her life.



Church

Muriel Homes/St. Johnsville Nursing Home
 Helen Brown/Palatine Nursing Home/
 declining
 Vivian Empie/Tarpon Springs Nursing
 Home/on Hospice
 Elli Schubert/cardiac
 Rena Cooper/surgery recuperation

Family/Loved Ones

Jenna/Scan and hysterectomy
 Patty Lowry/back injury
 Cindy Baxter/heart and liver
 Kent & Jill Busman/house fire
 Rena Cooper/continued recuperation
 Margaret Springstead/blood transfusions/
 pain
 Richard Nirschl/Marchand Manor
 Sue Jones/Marchand Manor
 Mike Bautochka/mass on thyroid
 Adnan Buxamusa/continued cardiac surgery
 recuperation
 Cindy Shuart/stroke
 Christine Baxter/home
 Joan/improving and Mason Springstead/
 pacemaker
 Heather Bivins/possible new treatment
 Bob Speidell/retinopathy
 Dodi Chechniki/ALS/van damage

**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

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

Dorothy Hill (LRC)
 2 Tryon Ave., Apt. 306
 Glenville, N.Y. 12303

Community

All Teachers and students
 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

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).

Muriel Holmes (LRC)
 St. Johnsville Nursing Home
 7 Timmerman Ave.
 St. Johnsville, N.Y. 13452

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

Helen Holmes (LRC)
 153 Hansen Rd.
 Cherry Valley, N.Y. 13320

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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pastorpacia@lrcandsrc.org.



Editor: Lola Fletcher, 756 Loonenbergh TPK., Sharon Springs, NY 13459.
Phone: 518-234-2283
E-mail lola756@wildblue.net
Deadline: April 22nd

MEMO BOARD

April

- 5,12,19,26 LRC Worship 9:00 A.M.
SRC Sunday School for all ages 9:30 A.M., Worship 11:00 A.M.
8,15,22,29 Bible Study 9:00 A.M.; Evening Study Group 7:00 @ the Parsonage (white house across the park from LRC, next to JWS Automotive); **No A.M. Study 29 April**
13 SRC/RCWM @ 6:30 P.M. Word: Lose Leader: Nancy MacFadden
14 SRC Elders 5:15 P.M., Deacons 5:30 P.M.; Consistory 6:00 P.M.
16 LRC Elders and Deacons 5:15 P.M.; Consistory 6:00 P.M.
18 Tom Slater Memorial Service 1:00 @ SRC
19 Special Offering (SRC)

May

- 1-17 pastor pacia on vacation
1,2 LRC Rummage Sale
3,10,17,24,31 LRC Worship 9:00 A.M.
SRC Sunday School for all ages 9:30 A.M., Worship 11:00 A.M.
3 Lay Sunday
10 Vena Ray, preacher
17 Living Gospel Ministries

LRC RUMMAGE AND BAKE SALE

When: May 1st & 2nd

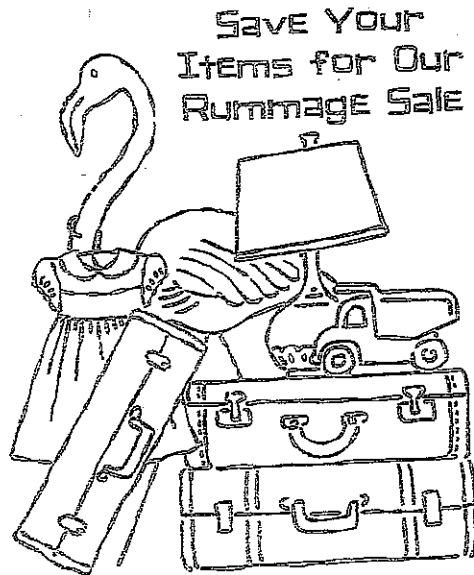
Time: Friday 9:00 A.M.—3:00 P.M.

Saturday 9:00 A.M.—1:00 P.M.

Bag sale starts Friday @ 12:00 P.M.

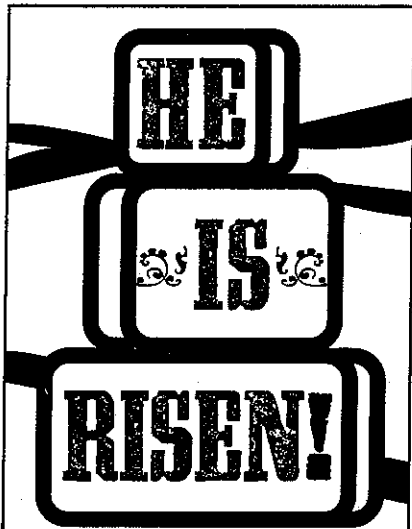
**Hall will be open Saturday April 25th and
Sunday April 26th to drop off items for sale**

Baked goods needed for the sale



Reminder: When calling pastor pacia, please call the Parsonage (234.9811), not the Office (234.2387). The Parsonage messages are checked more regularly.

Kid's Page



Create a simple yet powerful Easter display.

What you need:

- 3 wood blocks (small, medium, large)
- Acrylic paint (three pastel colors and white)
- Paintbrush
- Water
- Paper towels
- Letter stencils and tape (optional)

What you do:

1. Paint each block of wood a different pastel color. (You can paint the whole block or just one side.)
2. When paint is dry, use white paint to write (or stencil) "He" on the smallest block, "is" on the medium block and "risen!" on the large block.
3. When blocks are dry, stack them from largest to smallest to proclaim



OUR HOPE

Romans 8:34 tells about our risen Lord, who gives us hope.

Directions: Write the phrases on the correct numbered lines below. Then, on the final row of blanks, write the bold capital letters in order from top to bottom, left to right, to spell the word that sums up this verse.

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 5 who was Raised | 8 Right hand | 6 To life |
| 3 diEd | 4 moRe than that | 7 Is at the |
| 2 JeSus who | 11 intERceding | 9 Of God |
| 12 for Us | 1 Christ | 10 aNd is also |

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

4 _____ 5 _____

6 _____ 7 _____

8 _____

9 _____ 10 _____

11 _____ 12 _____

_____ Romans 8:34, NIV

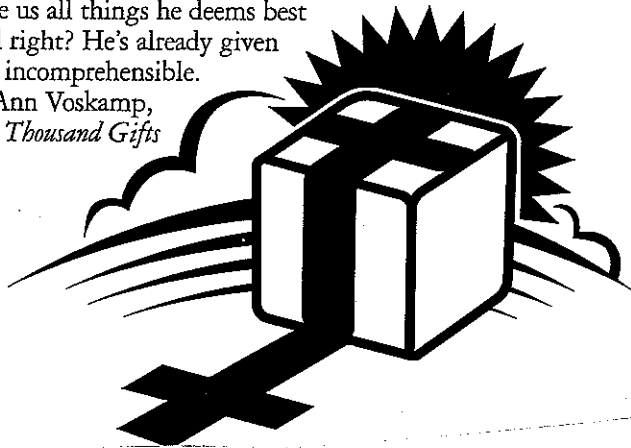
Life — is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Romans 8:34, NIV

RESURRECTION

The ultimate gift

If God didn't withhold from us his very own Son, will God withhold *anything* we need? If trust must be earned, hasn't God unequivocally earned our trust with the bark on the raw wounds, the thorns pressed into the brow, your name on the cracked lips? How will he not also graciously give us all things he deems best and right? He's already given the incomprehensible.

—Ann Voskamp,
One Thousand Gifts



The answer is Easter

After the April 2013 suicide of his 27-year-old son, Matthew, pastor and author Rick Warren was often asked how he was able to keep going. His frequent reply? "The answer is Easter."

In the Easter sermons Warren preached the following year, he emphasized that Jesus' resurrection is the answer to discouragement, defeat and devastating trials.

"The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus happened over three days," Warren explained. "Friday was the day of suffering and pain and agony. Saturday was the day of doubt and confusion and misery. But Easter, that Sunday, was the day of hope and joy and victory.

"You will face these three days over and over and over in your lifetime. And when you do, you'll find yourself asking, as I did, three fundamental questions. Number one, what do I do in my days of pain? Two, how do I get through my days of doubt and confusion? Three, how do I get to the days of joy and victory? The answer is Easter."

Four lessons of Good Friday

The Rev. James Martin, S.J., author of *Jesus: A Pilgrimage* (HarperOne), writes that Jesus' suffering and death almost 2,000 years ago are very relevant to our 21st-century lives. He says Good Friday teaches us that:

1. physical and emotional suffering are part of life;
2. suffering isn't always the result of sin;
3. Jesus was fully human — and thus understands our humanity; and
4. suffering isn't the last word.

"The message of Good Friday is incomplete without Easter," Martin writes. "The story of the Passion is not simply of a man being brutally tortured, nailed to a cross and executed by the Romans. It's the story of a man who turns himself fully over to the Father's will, trusts that something new will come out of this offering and receives the astonishing gift of new life."

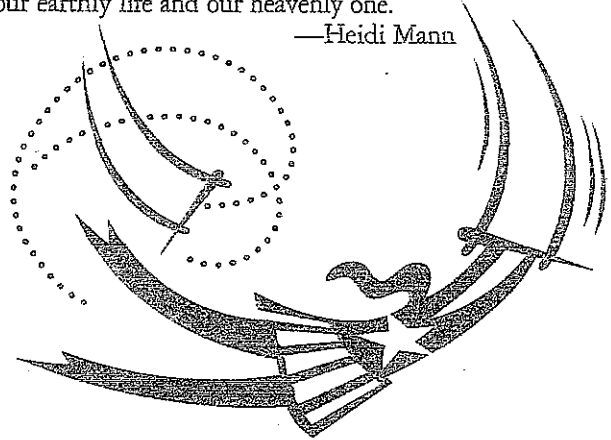
Tethered to Jesus

"The daring young man on the flying trapeze ..." Those lyrics to a popular 19th-century song come to mind when I picture aerial artists. A performer called the flyer leaps off a bar, swings a couple of times from a trapeze, then lets go to sail through the air before connecting with another swinging performer, the catcher.

Life sometimes seems like a circus act, though we don't always feel so daring. Especially during transitions, we often must let go of one thing before we're secure with another. We may feel as if we're flailing through the air during a move or job change, while awaiting medical test results or just walking along the path of faith.

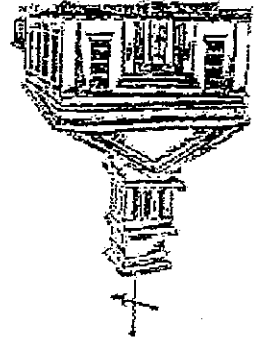
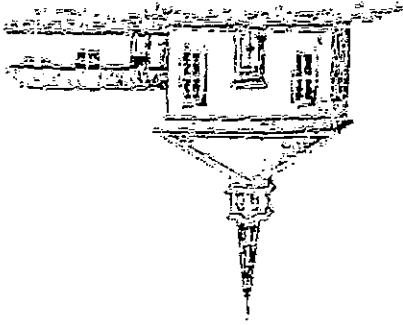
Thankfully, Jesus is our dependable "catcher." As we sail through life, wondering whether there's a safety net, we needn't worry about our ability to connect with and cling to Jesus. Instead, he catches us and holds on for dear life — our earthly life and our heavenly one.

—Heidi Mann



Egg-stra facts

- Although Easter eggs were once part of pagan spring festivals, they've become Christian symbols of new life. A cracked-open shell also represents Jesus' empty tomb on Easter morning.
- The early Christians of Mesopotamia began staining eggs red in honor of Jesus' blood shed on the cross. Red eggs remain part of Greek Orthodox celebrations today.
- For Lent, some families used to give up eggs and dairy, so they prepared a pancake feast on Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday. They solved the egg surplus by hard-boiling them in various broths, which led to colored eggs.
- In medieval times, churches held "egg-throwing" festivals. The priest threw a hard-boiled egg toward the choir boys, who tossed it back and forth. When the clock struck 12, whoever was holding the egg got to keep it.
- In some European countries, children go from house to house to collect Easter eggs.
- Each year, the PAAS Dye Co. sells more than 10 million egg-coloring kits, which consumers use to decorate 180 million eggs.
- The tallest chocolate Easter egg ever produced weighed 16,000 pounds — more than an elephant!



LAWYERSVILLE and SHARON REFORMED CHURCHES

4957 St. Rt. 145
Cobleskill, NY 12043

All travelers, somewhere along the way, find it necessary to check their course, to see how they are doing.

We wait until we are sick, or shocked into stillness, before we do the commonplace thing of getting our bearings.

And yet, we wonder why we are depressed, why we are unhappy, why we lose our friends, why we are ill-tempered.

This condition we pass on to our children, our husbands, our wives, our associates, our friends.

Cultivate the mood to linger.
...Who knows? God may whisper to you in the quietness what God has been trying to you, oh, for so long a time.

Howard Thurman, "Deep is the Hunger"