

The Reformer

Lawyersville and Sharon Reformed Churches 163

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 2015

What's Inside:

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**

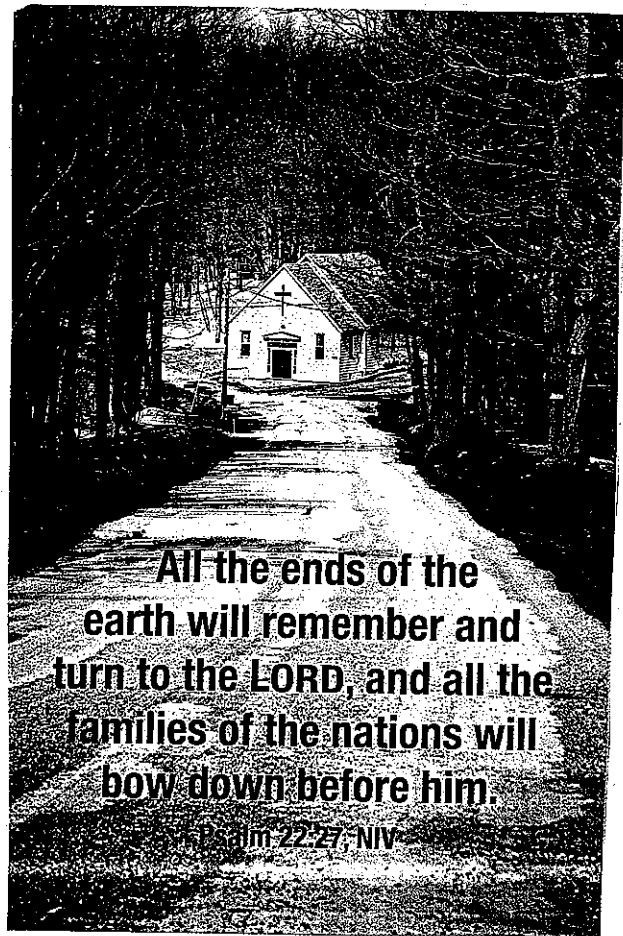
SRC - Church Service

11:00 A.M.

Sunday School

9:30 A.M.

Rev. Pacia Vamvas



Special dates

- National Day of Prayer, *May 7, 2015*
- Mother's Day, *May 10, 2015*
- Ascension of the Lord, *May 14, 2015*
- Armed Forces Day, *May 16, 2015*
- Victoria Day (Canada), *May 18, 2015*
- Pentecost, *May 24, 2015*
- Memorial Day, *May 25, 2015*
- Trinity Sunday, *May 31, 2015*

pastor pacia's ponderings

⁸ Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰ But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and consecrated it." (Exodus 20.8-11).

It is the wordiest of the Ten Commandments. It's rooted in good basic rationale – God created the world in six days, then took rest. "If it's good enough for God, it's good enough for me." There were strict adherences to the Sabbath. The movie Chariots of Fire tells the story of Eric Liddell, often called the "Flying Scotsman". He competed in the 1924 Summer Olympics. A devout Christian, Liddell refused to run in a heat held on Sunday and was forced to withdraw from the 100-meters race, his best event. He instead decided to run the 400 meter race, which he ran well, but not Olympics standards well. When the day of the Olympic 400 meters final came, July 11, 1924, Liddell went to the starting blocks, where an American Olympic Team masseur slipped a piece of paper into his hand with a quotation from 1 Samuel 2:30: "Those who honor me I will honor." Liddell run the race, and set an Olympic record.

The understanding or notion of Sabbath has evolved over the centuries. Some practices are still in place. Orthodox Jews must walk to Saturday services (if you travel on Whitehall Rd. in Albany on a Saturday, you may see families walking). Cooking is not allowed (sadly, that led to the deaths of seven children a few weeks back). My Godmother was Seventh Day Adventist – she would cook on Friday, before sundown, for Saturday lunch and supper. Ocean Grove, N.J. banned street parking; the ban was lifted in 1981 only as the result of a lawsuit. The Ocean Grove, Association (Ocean Grove was begun as a camp for the Methodist Church) still keeps the beach closed until 12:30 Sundays (being on the Shore, that cuts into profits). Bergen County, N.J. still has a restriction – most stores are not allowed to open on Sunday (the county has three major malls; imagine the loss of profit there).

Sometimes rules were bended- a woman spoke fondly of her grandmother closing the blinds so the neighbor would not see them playing cards on a Sunday afternoon. Rest, setting some time apart, is almost a dirty word in our society. There is a commercial of children urging their parents to take a vacation. Many people, even on vacation, take the office with them, taking part in conference calls, writing reports, spending a lot of time staring at a screen when God's green earth is right before their eyes.

Confession – I will check e-mails for prayer requests, and will send those along to ya'll (prayer does not take a vacation!)

On Friday, 1 May, we will begin our Sabbath rest. We will travel to Virginia Beach Friday night, then check into our home on the Outer Banks Saturday afternoon. We purposely stay in the quiet on Hatteras Island, in the town of Avon, rather than in the Kitty Hawk/Nags Head area, which is a typical busy tourist area. We look forward to the greeting – "How y'all doing today?", as the pace of life slows way down. The days will consist of reading (me), drowning worms (Michael and his brother Bill), storming and pillaging every thrift store within a 50-mile radius (me, again, though technically I guess that does not qualify as rest, although it is great therapy), walking the beach, spending quality time with our guests, including our son, Nicholas, daughter-in-law Annie, and grandson Elias, and generally soaking up the beauty of God's creation. I watch the sun rise out of the Atlantic Ocean in the morning, then watch it set into Pamlico Sound. We have a contest for who is first to see dolphins. Even on the days it rains, there is always the ocean to stare at.

I am soooooo very grateful for this time. " Thank you, Creator God, King of the Universe, we praise your name forever." grace and peace, pacia

May Worship

05.03.15 Fifth Sunday of Easter (white) Lay Sunday
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Acts 8.26-40 1 John 4.7-21
Psalm 22.25-31 John 15.1-8

05.10.15 Sixth Sunday of Easter (white) Vena Ray preaching

Acts 10.44-48 1 John 5.1-6
Psalm 98 John 15.9-17

Lay Leaders LRC Lola Fletcher

05.17.15 Seventh Sunday of Easter (white) Living Gospel Ministries

Acts 1. 15-17, 21-26 1 John 5.9-13
Psalm 1 John 17.6-19

Lay Leaders LRC Lola Fletcher

05.24.15 The Day of Pentecost (red)

Acts 2.1-21 + or Ezekiel 37.1-14 Romans 8.22-27
Psalm 104.24-35 John 15.26-27, 16.4-15

Lay Leaders LRC Bonnie Tryon

05.31.15 Trinity Sunday (white)

Isaiah 8.1-8 Romans 8.12-17
Psalm 29 John 3.1-17 +

Lay Leaders LRC Bonnie Tryon

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

Well done, good and faithful servant!

This June marks the 70th anniversary of the ordination of the Reverend Wilbur Ivins to Gospel ministry, as Minister of Word and Sacrament. We'll be celebrating this milestone with an informal gathering and time of fellowship on Saturday, June 6th, at the Lawyersville Reformed Church Hall. You are invited to drop in anytime from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. If you are unable to attend the gathering, but would like to send a card or a written remembrance, you can mail Wil directly at: 4969 State Route 145, Cobleskill, NY. 12043.

"Old" person sayings

How fitting that I saved these gems of wisdom Wil gave to me:
"Reaching my age isn't bad at all, especially when you consider the alternative."
"If I'd known I was going to live this long, I'd have taken better care of myself."
"Young at heart, slightly older in other places."
"I'm old enough to know the rules and smart enough to break them."
"Regardless of our age, most folks are not as old as they hope to be."
"Growing older means realizing that our life is what our thoughts make of it."
"Growing gracefully slower of step is only walking nearer to God."
Amen!

Well done, Anonymous Angels!

Have not acknowledged folks in awhile. There are so many who contribute to the life of the congregations. Some are known – members of Consistory, Treasurer, Organist, the "Administrator, who prepares, prints and/or folds the weekly bulletin and monthly Reformer. Many others are not known or acknowledged. A thank you to those angels whose deeds enhance the live of the congregations, yet whose names remain anonymous. Just a few examples – having the choir stoles dry cleaned; cleaning and re-arranging the kitchens, buying pillows for the hard pews at SRC, planting and weeding, buying items that the churches would otherwise have to pay for; there are others. Thank you to all those who serve the congregations in quiet, yet powerful ways.



Prayer Requests

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

Joan and Mason Springfield/home
 Mary Jane Decker/cancer
 Nadine Decker/growth behind eye/surgery
 Barbara Nark/sciatica
 Brian Vamvas/cancer
 Briana DellaMonica/cancer; dim prognosis
 Jenna/Scan and hysterectomy
 Patty Lowry/back and head injury
 Kent & Jill Busman/house fire
 Margaret Springstead/multiple health issues
 Richard Nirschl/Marchand Manor
 Sue Jones/Marchand Manor
 Mike Bautochka/mass on thyroid
 Cindy Shuart/stroke
 Joan/improving and Mason Springstead/
 pacemaker
 Heather Bivins/possible new treatment
 Bob Speidell/retinopathy
 Dodi Chechniki/ALS

**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, NY 13428

Dorothy Hill (LRC)
 2 Tryon Ave., Apt. 306
 Glenville, NY 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

Crisis of migrants and refugees
 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

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



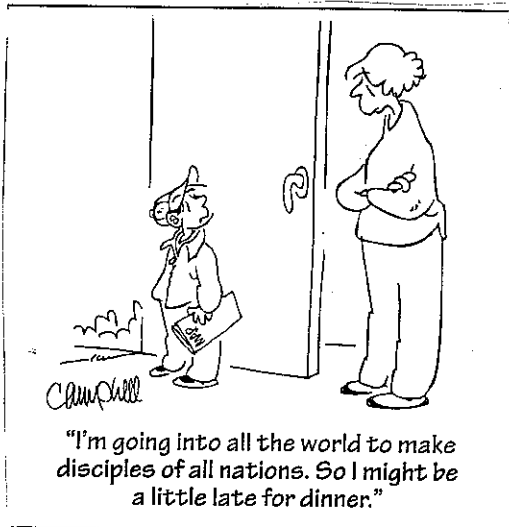
MAY	
9	Charlene Wilder
13	Deylon Davenport
13	MaryLee Slater
14	Pat Van Deusen
14	Lois Wright
15	Mildred Erickson
19	Joan Palmer
24	Josephine King
28	Helen Brown
30	Katherine Cooper



MAY	
NONE	



**Sweetest sounds
The sweetest sounds
To mortals given
Are heard in Mother,
Home and Heaven**



A prayer for Mom

A young boy had been misbehaving, so his mother sent him to his room. Sometime later, he came out and told his mom he'd prayed about the matter. "That's good," she replied. "If you ask God for help to not misbehave, he'll help you."

"Oh, I didn't pray for help behaving," said the boy. "I prayed for God to help you put up with me."

Glimpsing God?

A December 2014 *New York Times* article profiled Alberto Cairo, an Italian man who for 25 years has run orthopedic centers in Afghanistan. Woven throughout was the story of a chrysanthemum bouquet in Cairo's office. He told the reporter that his dearest friend, Sergio, had recently died. "His birthday was a few days ago," Cairo shared. Had he been in Italy, he would've placed yellow mums, his friend's favorite, at the grave. Instead, that very day, an Afghan staff member had brought yellow flowers to Cairo, saying, "I thought you might need these."

Cairo said, "[He] had never come to my office before, knew nothing about Sergio, and ... I have never seen these flowers in Afghanistan before." He concluded, "I believe that when the dead are dead, they're dead. But what am I supposed to think about this?"

I'll never know whether Cairo comes to believe in life beyond death, but coincidence is said to be God remaining anonymous. Maybe he's at work — through yellow mums.

—Heidi Mann

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

Sunday April 26th to drop off items for sale

Baked goods needed for the sale

Help needed to set up on Monday Apr27th

and Tuesday April 28th

and help during the sale



*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).

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

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: May 20th

MEMO BOARD

May

- 1-18 pastor pacia on vacation
- 3 Aggie Scott Memorial Crop Walk, 1:30 P.M. @ Zion Lutheran, Coby
- 3,10,17,24,31 LRC Worship 9:00 A.M.
SRC Sunday School 9:30 A.M.; SRC Worship 11:00 A.M.
- 3 Lay Sunday
- 7 LRC Consistory 5:15 P.M.
- 10 Vena Ray, preaching
- 11 RCWM/SRC meeting in the hall Leader: Betty Cullen Word: Life
Program: Life is disappointing—Lesson 1
- 17 Living Gospel Ministries
- 17 **Special Offering (SRC)**
- 19 SRC Elders and Deacons 5:15 P.M.; Consistory 6:00 P.M.

- "For happiness one needs security, but joy can spring like a flower even from the cliffs of despair."
—Anne Morrow Lindbergh
- "Why shall I wait for someone else? Why don't I raise my voice?"
—Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai, age 17
- "If at first you don't succeed, do it like your mother told you."
—Author unknown

Advice for grads

The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.

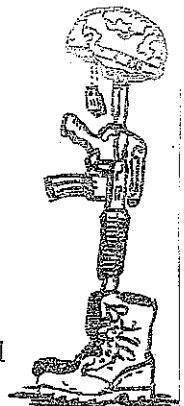
—Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Memorial Day"

Is it enough to think today
Of all our brave, then put away
The thought until a year has sped?
Is this full honor for our dead?

Is it enough to sing a song
And deck a grave; and all year long
Forget the brave who died that we
Might keep our great land proud
and free?

Full service needs a greater toll,
That we who live give heart and soul
To keep the land they died to save,
And be ourselves, in turn, the brave!



—Annette Wynne