

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.

June 2015

What's Inside:

Pastor's Page
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Birthdays-Anniversaries



LRC - Church Service

9:00 A.M.

Sunday School

following worship

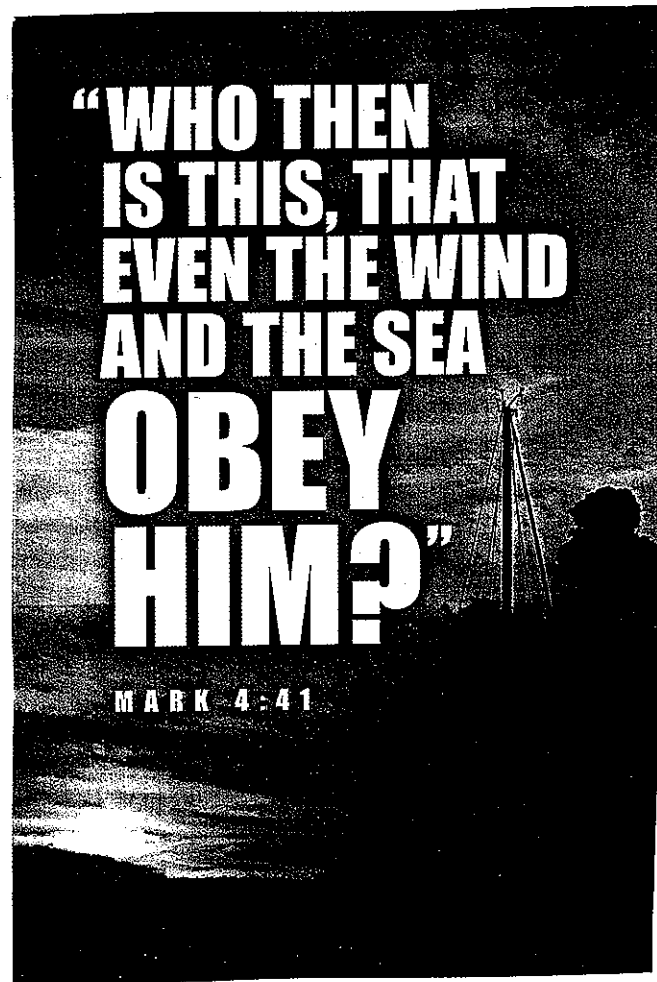
SRC - Church Service

11:00 A.M.

Sunday School

9:30 A.M.

Rev. Pacia Vamvas



Special dates

- Flag Day, June 14, 2015
- Father's Day, June 21, 2015
- First day of summer, June 21, 2015

pastor pacia's ponderings

We checked out of our Outer Banks vacation home on Saturday, May 16. Normally we would start home, stay overnight somewhere in Pennsylvania, and return home on Sunday.

This year was different. Our daughter, Melina, has been running Marathons for a couple years now. This was Marathon #4 for her. There is a series of races surrounding the Great Lakes (she lives in Buffalo). This race was taking place May 17 in Cleveland, OH. Michael and I decided to surprise her. We left the Outer Banks about 8:00 Saturday morning; with stops, traffic and heavy rain, it was 10:00 P.M. before we rolled into the parking lot of the hotel. Imagine our dismay, after 14 hours on the road, when we were told the hotel had cancelled our reservation without contacting us, plus had no rooms available for the night! We were fortunate to be able to check into a hotel just across the highway; it was 10:45 P.M. by the time we got into the room.

To get to the Marathon, instead of trying to drive into downtown Cleveland, we took the hotel shuttle to the Airport, then public transportation to Downtown, a trip that took about an hour. After we knew the race had begun, we told Melina's boyfriend, Josh, that we were there. We wanted to meet him at the finish line. Of course, with so many people there, it took a while to find him. But...all the setbacks and stress were wiped away when we saw her approach and cross the finish line!

Parents make sacrifices for their children. One time, we drove hours out of our way to pick up our son, Tyson, who was taking a break from hiking the Appalachian Trail (yew!) Teachers make sacrifices for students, spending extra time working with them, buying school supplies for those who would otherwise go without. Family makes sacrifices for family, giving up a weekend get-a-way to attend Aunt Tillie's last-minute birthday party. A daughter gives up her dreams of college to go to work to supplement the meager family income.

We humans make sacrifices for the benefit of others; some sacrifices are small; some are very significant sacrifices. Yet, all pale in comparison to the sacrifice Jesus made for us and for our salvation. He died for us, though we did not (still do not) deserve. "The proof of God's amazing love is this – while we still were sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5.8). Best. Savior. Ever!

btw – This was Melina's hardest race so far. It was very hot. She came very close to having an asthma attack, and felt very dizzy at one point. She said while she was running, she was thinking of the lessons she had learned from her parents, to work through a problem, to find a positive in any situation, and her stubbornness (she obviously learned from her father!). How awesome that these lessons were going through her head as we were waiting for her at the finish line! It's a God thing! Thank you Jesus!

grace and peace, pacia

The Day and Season of Pentecost

The day of Pentecost closes the Easter Season and opens the door to the Season of Pentecost. This Season lasts more than half of the Church Year. Depending on the date of Easter, there can be as many as 28 Sundays in the Season. The Seasons of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent and Easter have focused on the life and death of our Lord. The focus now is on discipleship – the new life in Christ in which we are living and growing and serving.

Forty days after the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus ascends into heaven (see Acts 1.6-11). In verse 8 Jesus assures the apostles "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you..." Jesus has also given the promise of the Holy Spirit in John 14.26 and 16.7. The Greek word "Paraclete", is one who is called to aid, plead for, is an advocate or counselor who encourages, strengthens, and comforts.

As with many others, the Christian practice came out of an established Jewish observation. Pentecost, or the Festival of Weeks, was celebrated on the 50th day after Passover. The celebration was for the grain harvest, the giving of the Law ("Torah", "instruction"), and the founding of the Jewish faith community. The early Church celebrated thanksgiving for the fruits of the Spirit. Pentecost later came to be celebrated as the "birthday" of the Christian Church.

Along with Passover, and Sukkoth ("The Feast of Booths") Pentecost is a Jewish holiday when all Jewish men, as able, were required to gather in Jerusalem. This festival would bring in thousands of Jews, from many countries. It was thought that Simon of Cyrene (modern-day Libya), who was made to carry the crosspiece of Jesus' cross, was in the city for the celebration of Passover. This is the account Luke gives us in Acts. 2.1-4: "When the Day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them." The remainder of Chapter Two speaks of all those from many countries, speaking many languages, who are able to comprehend the words of the apostles. Peter takes the opportunity to speak to all gathered. This is the first official proclamation of the Gospel.

Tongues of fire appeared to hover over the apostles as a sign of God's presence and power. In Old Testament times fire was a sign of God's presence and holiness.

A dove is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. It is the form in which the Spirit of the Lord was seen at Jesus' baptism. Fire and wind are also symbols.

Trinity Sunday is the Sunday immediately following Pentecost Sunday.

Christ the King Sunday (this year on November 22) is the last Sunday of the Church year, when the yearly cycle begins again with the Season of Advent.

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General Synod

The annual General Synod of the Reformed Church in America will take place Thursday, June 11 through Tuesday, June 16, on the campus of Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, Illinois. Delegates will gather from the eight Regional Synods in the U.S. and Canada. Synod is a time for discussion and decision-making, but also a time of prayer, discernment, worship and fellowship. Our June 7 Worship will include a time of Prayer for General Synod, and for delegates Dan Fiske and pastor pacia.

June Worship

06.07.15 Second Sunday after Pentecost (green) Rev. Wil Ivins, preaching
Day of Prayer for General Synod

Genesis 3.8-15
Psalm 130
Romans 8.31-39 +
LRC Lay Leader pastor pacia

2 Corinthians 4.13-5.1
Mark 3.20-35
John 15.1-11 +

06.14.15 Third Sunday after Pentecost (green); Children's Day
Ezekiel 17.22-24
Psalm 92.1-4, 12-15
LRC Lay Leader Lisa Boss

2 Corinthians 5.6-10, (11-13), 14-17
Mark 4. 26-34 +

06.21.15 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost (green); Fathers' Day
Job 38.1-11
Psalm 107.1-3, 23-32
LRC Lay Leader Lisa Boss

2 Corinthians 6.1-13
Mark 4.35-41 +

06.28.14 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost (green)
Lamentations 3.22-33
Psalm 30
LRC Lay Leader Kelly Sperbeck

2 Corinthians 8.7-15
Mark 5.21-43 +

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

There are two different Lectionaries used during the Season of Pentecost. The Old Testament and Psalm readings listed here (and in the bulletin), are the ones that will be utilized each week.

PRAYER LIST

Those homebound:

Sue Jones (LRC)
Marchand Manor
121 Main St.
Sharon Springs, NY 13459

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

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

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

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

Richard Nirsdhl (SRC)
Marchand Manor
121 Main St.
Sharon Springs, N.Y. 13459

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



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
 Karl Cooper/back

Family/Loved Ones

Prayers for the family and loved ones of
 Briana Del Monica
 Prayers for the family and loved ones of
 Brian Vamvas
 Patty Lowry/back injury
 Liam/Spina Bifida/two surgeries pending
 Jan Liberti/cancer free!
 Jeane Doran/breast cancer/ double
 mastectomy
 Mary Jane Decker/cancer
 Nadine Decker/growth behind eye/cataract
 surgery
 Barbara Nark/sciatica
 Jenna/Scan and hysterectomy
 Kent & Jill Busman/house fire
 Sabler family/fatal fire
 Margaret Springstead/multiple health issues
 Richard Nirschl/at Marchand Manor
 Sue Jones/at Marchand Manor
 Mike Bautochka/mass on thyroid
 Cindy Shuart/stroke
 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.**

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

*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).

ANN
Happy Birthday
Wishes To:

JUNE

- 5 Edward Becker III
- 11 Kathy Parsons
- 11 Ellie Schubert
- 16 June Slater
- 18 Linda DiCicco
- 22 Barbara Hall
- 24 Jim Cullen
- 27 Meghan Keaney
- 29 Talan Smith



JUNE

- 1 George & Lola Fletcher
- 10 Verne & Kathy Venette
- 24 Jeff & Janice Van Aller



Abraham in retirement

**MY
 OBLIGATION IS
 TO DO THE
 RIGHT THING.
 THE REST IS IN
 GOD'S
 HANDS.**

God's guiding hand

How incomprehensible is the love of God! His ways are indeed past finding out. How many of his providences are like the cloud between the Israelites and the Egyptians — if looked on by unbelievers, or without faith, it is a cloud of darkness; but if viewed according to the privilege of the Lord's people, it is no longer darkness, but light and safety.

May this be your experience: May you feel that the hand which inflicts the wound supplies the balm, and that he who has emptied your heart has filled the void with himself.

—J. Hudson Taylor



"DO YOU COUNT SHEEP TO GET TO SLEEP, GRAMPA?"

"NOPE... I TALK TO THE SHEPHERD."

DENNIS THE MENACE

Parting is such sweet sorrow

We give thanks to God that Cheryl and Adnan Buxamusa were led here by God at a critical time. Cheryl has served as Organist at LRC these past two years. We are sad to say "see you later" (Christians do not say good-bye). But we send them on with our love and deep gratitude. Many blessings for them as they move into this next portion of the journey. Go with God.

Thank you

Thank you to the Cullen Family and Moonlight Horticulture for planting beautiful flowers at both SRC and LRC. "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

70!

Rev. Wil Ivins is celebrating 70 years of ordained ministry. There will be an Open House celebration on Saturday, June 6, 1:00 - 4:00 P.M., @ the LRC Hall.

The following day, Sunday, June 7, Wil plans to lead worship and serve communion. Many, many prayers of thanksgiving and blessing for this humble servant who has so faithfully offered himself as a "living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God." (Romans 12.1).

Vacation Bible School

The annual Sharon-Area Vacation Bible School will be held Monday, June 29 - Thursday, July 2, 10:00 A.M. - 1:30 P.M., at Sharon Springs United Methodist Church, 510 State Route 20, Sharon Springs, NY 13459.

Christmas Collaboration Collection (LRC)

The LRC Consistory has approved requesting funds to help families at Christmastime (an LRC-specific family & the Cobleskill Community Program). The donations will be requested on a quarterly basis. The next installment will be collected June 21. Please leave your donations at the close of the service. Thank you.

Graduates

Hunter Cullen graduated May 17, with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and a Minor in Religious Studies. Congratulations! If there are other graduates, please give the name; they will be celebrated in the next Reformer.

The origin of Father's Day

One Sunday in 1909, Sonora Smart Dodd listened to a sermon honoring mothers. Her mother had died some years before, so her father had raised her by himself. Dodd wondered why there wasn't a day to honor fathers, so she arranged a tribute to her father at a church in Spokane, Washington. The date was June 19, 1910. Many people believe this was the beginning of Father's Day.

Another account holds that a West Virginia church held a tribute service for fathers in 1908, following a mine explosion that killed 360 men. Regardless of which story is correct, President Calvin Coolidge was the first president to designate a special day to honor fathers. In 1924, he proclaimed the third Sunday in June as Father's Day.

Priorities

My father used to play with my brother and me in the yard. Mother would come out and say, "You're tearing up the grass."

"We're not raising grass," Dad would reply. "We're raising boys."

—Harmon Killebrew

What is a dad?

A dad is someone who wants to catch you before you fall but instead picks you up, brushes you off, and lets you try again.

A dad is someone who wants to keep you from making mistakes but instead lets you find your own way, even though his heart breaks in silence when you get hurt.

A dad is someone who holds you when you cry, scolds you when you break the rules, shines with pride when you succeed, and has faith in you even when you fail.

- "There is not a thing that God expects of a person but that God will give him or her the power to do."
—A.B. Simpson
- "How we walk with the broken speaks louder than how we sit with the great."
—Zig Ziglar
- "The greatest gift I ever had came from God; I call him Dad!"
—Anonymous