

The Reformer

Lawyersville and Sharon Reformed Churches 153

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 2014

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**

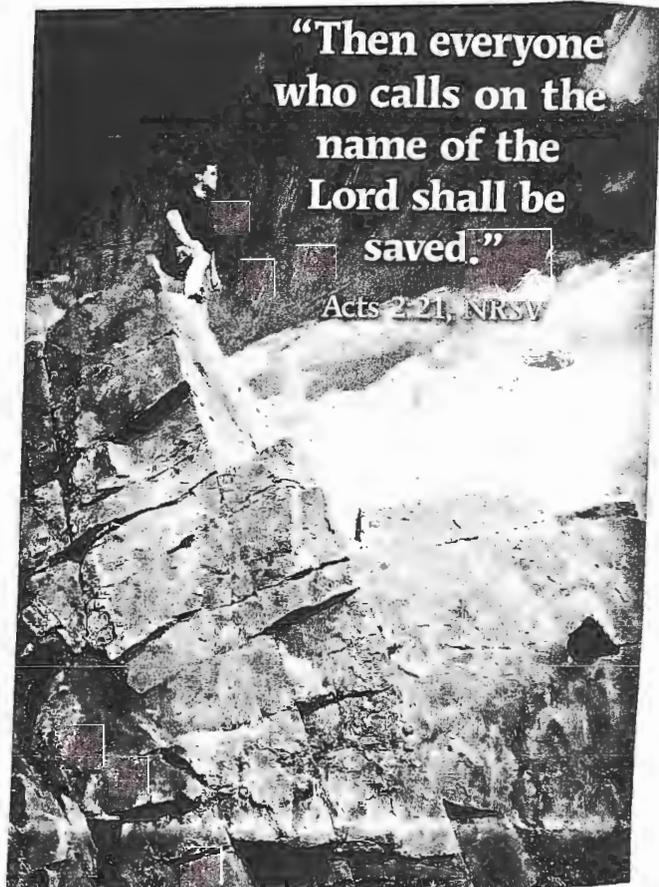
SRC - Church Service

11:00 A.M.

Sunday School

9:30 A.M.

Rev. Pacia Vamvas



**KEEP
THE
FAITH**

pastor pacia's ponderings

Just returned from vacation in the Outer Banks of North Carolina. We go every year, and settle into a time of doing not much of anything beyond fishing (Michael), reading (me), sitting and walking on the beach, and enjoying good company. If the weather is not great I hit the local thrift shops, of which there are many. Vacationers often buy assorted items, then donate them back when they leave.

I look forward to these two weeks in May eagerly, not just a few weeks before, but a year before. As soon as we get back I start the countdown of days until we leave again the next year (343 days from the Sunday this is being distributed).

Many people say it's nice to get away, but it's great to be back home. For the longest time I thought that was not me – I did not look forward to leaving the ocean behind and returning home. But then I thought of looking at it another way, from an entirely different perspective. My Dad died in July, 2003. During surgery to remove his gall bladder the surgeon discovered a tumor on his pancreas. Pancreatic cancer is one type of cancer that is often diagnosed after it is too late to offer curative treatment. Just 22 days after we received the diagnosis, he died. In that short time, knowing his death was imminent, in spite of my deep faith, I was questioning if I would actually be able to do as Paul charges - "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice!" (Philippians 4.4) when he died. After his death I realized I could and did rejoice, because I knew that he was with Jesus in heaven. But...I still wanted him to be here on earth as well.

So, my emotion is not one of counting the days to "escape" from home but an [impossible] desire to be in both places at the same time. Paul states in Colossians 2.5 "For though I am absent in the body, yet I am with you in spirit."

Blessings to all who long to be absent in the body, yet here in spirit.

grace and peace, pacia

June Worship

06.01.14 Seventh Sunday of Easter/Ascension (white)

Acts 1.6-14 + 1 Peter 4.12-14; 5.6-11

Psalm 68.1-10,32-35 John 17.1-11

Lay Leaders LRC Lola Fletcher SRC Barb Mereness

06.08.14 Pentecost (red)

Acts 2.1-21 + or Numbers 11.24-30

Psalm 104.24-35

1 Corinthians 12.3-13

John 20.19-23 or John 7.37-39

Lay Leaders LRC Bonnie Tryon SRC ---

06.15.14 Trinity Sunday (white)

Genesis 1.1-2.4

2 Corinthians 13.11-13

Psalm 8

Matthew 28.16-20

Lay Leaders LRC Wil and Martha Ivins SRC Barb Mereness

06.22.14 Second Sunday after Pentecost (green)

Jeremiah 28.5-19

Romans 6.1b-11

Psalm 69.7-10,(11-15),16-18

Matthew 10.24-39

Lay Leaders LRC Wil and Martha Ivins SRC Nancy MacFadden

06.29.14 Third Sunday after Pentecost (green)

Jeremiah 28.5-9

Romans 6.12-23

Psalm 89.1-4,15-18

Matthew 10.40-42

Lay Leaders LRC Wil and Martha Ivins SRC Nancy MacFadden

[Note the changes in the altar cloths colors over the course of four weeks, from the last Sunday in the Season of Easter to the Second Sunday after Pentecost, (white, red, white, green). Green will be color all through the Season of Pentecost, which concludes with Christ the King Sunday, 11.23.14.]

One Sunday

The denomination, the Reformed Church in America, is requesting a special donation. "One Sunday - to change a life, a city a world."

"Every person who receives salvation in Christ affects thousands of other people over the course of his or her lifetime." "Make plans this Pentecost Sunday to join together with us in prayer and giving for the starting and strengthening of churches in the power of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit." A special offering will be collected Pentecost Sunday, 8 June, to further the reach of the Good News, the Gospel.

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 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.

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 Weeks") Pentecost is a Jewish holiday when all Jewish men, as able, were required to gather in Jerusalem. This festival would bring 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, 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. The color for the Day of Pentecost is red. Worshipers are invited to wear red that Lord's Day.

Trinity Sunday is the Sunday immediately after Pentecost Sunday.

Christ the King Sunday (this year on 23 November) is the last Sunday of the Church year, when the yearly cycle begins again with the Season of Advent.

There are a few booklets, "I Love to Live the Story: A Guide to Understanding and Celebrating The Christian Church Year" on hand.

- "Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant."

—Robert Louis Stevenson

- "A God wise enough to create me and the world I live in is wise enough to watch out for me."

—Philip Yancey

- "When a father gives to his son, both laugh; when a son gives to his father, both cry."

Kid's Page

A WORD COLLAGE FOR Dad

Create this artwork to express your love and appreciation for your dad or another special man this Father's Day.

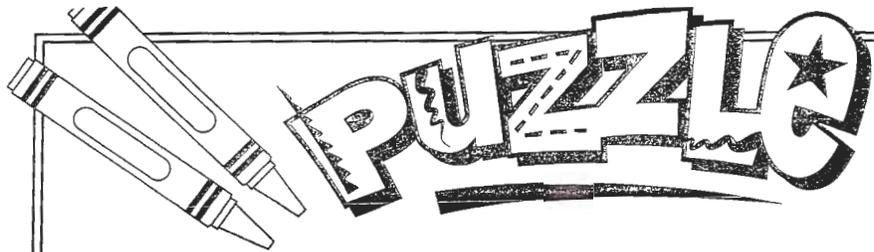


What you need:

- A white painting canvas, foam-core board or poster board
- Letter stickers (or foam letters and glue)

What you do:

1. Using the letters, spell out words that describe your dad's character (loving, honest, godly, etc.) and/or his titles (protector, provider, mentor, etc.).
2. Arrange words in a crossword style, both horizontally and vertically.
3. When you have a design you like, stick the words onto the blank canvas or board.
4. Present the gift to your dad or another special man on Father's Day. He'll enjoy this reminder of your love and appreciation.



A FATHER'S LOVE

Psalm 103:13 (NIV) describes what God the Father feels toward us:
 "As a father has _____ on his children, so the LORD has _____ on those who fear him."

Directions: Match the biblical children to their father, using the clues by the father's name. Then write the corresponding letter on the line to complete the Bible verse above.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| • Shem, Ham and Japheth = M | • Rachel and Leah = S | • Cain, Abel and Seth = O |
| • Solomon = O | • Isaac and Ishmael = P | • Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, Benjamin, Dan, Gad, Naphtali, Asher and Dinah = S |
| • Jonathan = I | • John the Baptist = N | |
| • Jesus = C | • Jacob and Esau = A | |

- | | | |
|-------------------|--|----------|
| God: | "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." | <u>C</u> |
| Adam: | God gave him another son because his older killed the younger. | _____ |
| Noah: | His sons were blessed and told to multiply and replenish the earth. | _____ |
| Abraham: | God promised he would be a father of many nations. The Jews and Arabs descended from these two sons. | _____ |
| Isaac: | His older son sold his birthright, and his younger son tricked Isaac and received the blessings for the firstborn. | _____ |
| Laban: | He had two daughters; the older was tender-eyed and the younger very beautiful. Both married Jacob. | _____ |
| Jacob: | Two wives and two handmaids gave him 12 sons and a daughter. | _____ |
| Saul: | His son was David's best friend. | _____ |
| David: | He had many children, but one was known for his wisdom, for having many wives and for building God's temple. | _____ |
| Zechariah: | His son, a cousin to Jesus, was born to be a messenger of repentance. | _____ |

Answer: compassion

Pastor: The Rev. Pacia Ferrell Vamvas

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web site: www.lrcandsrc.org

Lawyersville Consistory

ELDERS

*Christine Hibbard - 234-3492 (2015)

Kelly Sperbeck - 294-7198 (2014)

Bonnie Tryon - 234-9130 (2015)

DEACONS

+ Lola Fletcher - 234-2283 (2015)

Lisa Boss - 361-7797 (2015)

Ted Stuart - 234-7241 (2015)

*Vice President

+Chair of Deacons

Sharon Consistory

ELDERS

Laura Davenport - 705-0860 (2014)

Linda DiCicco - 284-2250 (2015)

*Dan Fiske - 518-705-1469 (2015)

DEACONS

+ Barbara Mereness 284-2474 (2015)

AdrienneCullen 294-4363 (2015)

Nancy MacFadden 708-4411(2015)

Kathy Parsons 284-2332 (2015)

*Vice President

+Chairman of Deacons

Lawyersville Organist - Cheryl Buxamusa	518-823-4449
Lawyersville Treasurer - Kelly Sperbeck	294-7198
Sharon Organist - Barbara Hall	284-2056
Sharon Treasurer - Barbara Hall	284-2056
Reformer - Lola Fletcher	234-2283

home e-mail: lola756@wildblue.net

Address: 756 Loonenbergh Tpk.

Sharon Springs, NY 13459



Prayer Requests

Church

Michael Vamvas/healing
 Steve DiCicco/torn rotator cup
 Muriel Homes/St. Johnsville Nursing Home
 Helen Brown/Palatine Nursing Home/mouth pain
 Tom Slater/increased dialysis
 Vivian Empie/Tarpon Springs Nursing Home/declining
 Elli Schubert/cardiac
 The People of Discernment
 Charlene Wilder/cardiac

Family/Loved Ones

Joan and Mason Springstead/strokes
 Shelly and Dan/financial and health issues
 Ron Tryon/cardiac surgery recuperation
 Randy Cutting/open-heart surgery
 Logan Hayes/diabetes/insulin pump
 Barb/renal fatigue
 Melissa/serious health diagnosis
 Bryce McCann/broken leg
 Heather Bivins/continued pain
 Donald Bennett/return of cancer
 Young mother/breast cancer/surgery
 Nancy Hammond/surgery recuperation
 Paul Gordayer/cancer
 Bob Speidell/retinopathy
 Scott Speidell/leukemia
 Jan Liberti/home
 Dodi Chechniki/ALS
 Kate Hamlet/pregnancy complications
 Sylvia Ferrell-Jones/ chemo
 Chuck Ferrell/thanksgiving for a new beginning
 Anne and Pat Donnelly/house fire
 The Clapper family/house fire

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 grandchildren
 All families impacted by alcoholism and/or substance abuse
 The prevalence of 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
 All those impacted by Irene, Lee and Sandy Schoharie Area Long-Term Recovery (SALT)
 Christians facing persecution
 Concerns about the economy, unemployment and foreclosures
 All soldiers (esp. those deployed) and their families

Nation and World

Persecuted Christians (esp. in North Korea)
 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).

Peace for today

May today there be peace within.
 May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.
 May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.
 May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you.
 May you be confident knowing you are a child of God.
 Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.
 It is there for each and every one of us.

—St. Therese of Lisieux (1873-1897)



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 and Lola Fletcher
- 10 Verne and Kathy Venette
- 24 Jeff and Janice Van Aller



**TIME
IS THE
GREATEST
GIFT TO
SHARE WITH
EACH OTHER**



"I believe your father would like to add something."

What matters most

When you are in the final days of your life, what will you want? Will you hug that college degree in the walnut frame? Will you ask to be carried to the garage so you can sit in your car? Will you find comfort in rereading your financial statement? Of course not. What will matter then will be people. If relationships will matter most then, shouldn't they matter most now?

—Max Lucado, *A Love Worth Giving*

Points for honesty

A Sunday school teacher was telling his class the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), in which Jesus describes three individuals' responses to a man found beaten and in grave need of help along the side of the road. Hoping to bring home the point of the parable, the teacher asked the class, "If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?"

A hushed silence followed, broken after a moment by a thoughtful little girl: "I think I'd throw up."

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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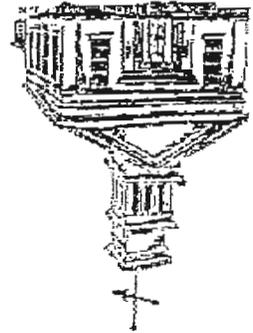
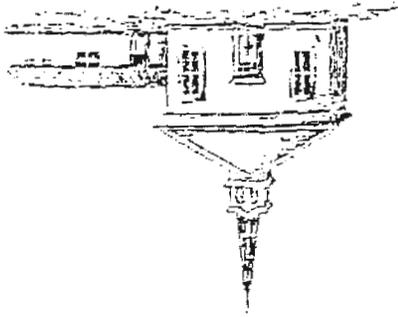
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Deadline: June 25th

MEMO BOARD

June

- 1,8,15,22,29 LRC Worship 9:00 A.M. SRC Worship 11:00 A.M.
3 Worship Team 5:30 P.M. @ LRC
4 Bible Study 9:00 A.M.; Evening Study Group 7:00 P.M.
@ the Parsonage (large white house across the park from LRC, next to JWS Automotive); Bible Study ends for the year on 4 June.
8 Childrens' Day Worship (SRC); Lunch Fellowship following
8 **Special Offering: One Sunday (LRC)**
12-17 General Synod - Central College, Pella, Iowa
15 **Special Offering (SRC)**
16 SRC/RCWM @ 6:30 P.M. Church Hall Word: Preach
Leader: Barbara Hall Lesson: Jesus His Powerful Life
Preparation-Lesson #2
17 SRC Elders 4:00 P.M., Consistory 5:00 P.M.
19 LRC Deacons and Elders 6:30 P.M.; Consistory 7:00
25 Classis Discernment Gathering 6:30 P.M., @LRC
26 CRCS Baccalaureate 7:00 P.M., @ LRC;
26 SSCS 7:00 P.M. (tentative, location TBA)

Congratulations to all graduates! Job well done.



LAWYERSVILLE and SHARON REFORMED CHURCHES

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Hit the road

When a teenager received his driving permit, he asked his father, who was a minister, if they could discuss use of the car.

His father said, "I'll make a deal with you. You bring your grades up, study your Bible a little and get your hair cut, and then we'll talk about it."

A month later, the young man returned to continue the discussion. "Son, I've been real proud of you," the father said. "You've brought your grades up and studied your Bible diligently, but you didn't get your hair cut!"

The teenager replied, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that. Samson had long hair, Moses had long hair, Noah had long hair and even Jesus had long hair"

"Yes," the father said, "and they walked everywhere they went!"