

# The Reformer

Lawyersville and Sharon Reformed Churches 165

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.

September 2015

## What's Inside:

Pastor's Page  
Church Review  
Calendar of Events  
Children's Fun Page  
Birthdays-Anniversaries



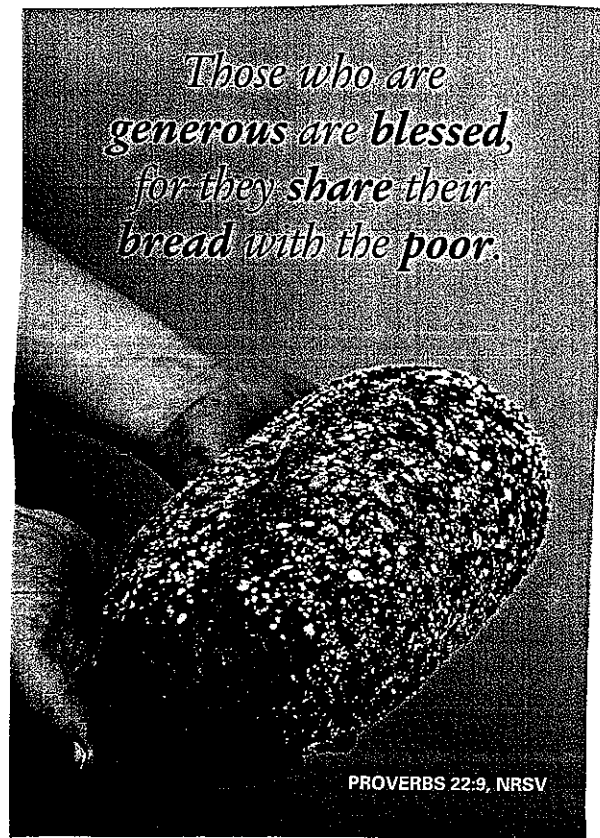
**LRC - Church Service**  
**9:00 A.M.**

**Sunday School**  
**following worship**

**SRC - Church Service**  
**11:00 A.M.**

**Sunday School**  
**9:30 A.M.**

**Rev. Pacia Vamvas**



### pastor pacia's ponderings

This past week, I said good-bye to one of my doctors. He is closing his practice and moving to Florida. I had seen this doctor four times a year, for 15 years. Probably the longest relationship with any one doctor over the course of my lifetime. I almost considered him a friend; saying good-bye was extremely difficult. I cried when I made my final appointment; I cried during the appointment; I cried after the appointment. Even days later, I still tear up just thinking about it.

One loss can lead to remembering another, or other losses. I still keenly miss my touchstone, Christine (Dickerson). I was blessed to have her come into my life not one, but twice. We first met when her (then) husband was the student pastor at my home congregation in New Jersey. Years later we both ended up in Cobleskill, NY. What fun that was when we recognized one another! She was librarian at the Community Library in Cobleskill; we definitely did not use our inside voices! We would meet for lunch, eat, laugh, talk, laugh, cry, laugh. We got one another. Having been married to a pastor, she understood the challenges of ordained ministry. We had the same warped sense of humor, the same inquisitive minds, the same heightened sense of intuition. She was my BFF. Next month it will be four years since her death. Sometimes it seems like just yesterday. We have all had to face, or will face the death of a loved one. No matter how long we have, if it is a loved one, it is never enough time. Yet, we only borrow those in our lives. We must eventually say good-bye. But, as Christians, we do not say good-bye, but "see ya later." When I was with Hospice, knowing I would likely not see a (Christian) patient again, I would say, "I'll see you again, either here on earth, or 'round the throne. Whoever gets there first (who knows? I could be hit by a bus today); save a spot!" Russ is not a Christian, but, I trust, by the mercies of God, we will meet again 'round the throne. "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." (Revelation 21.1-4). grace and peace, pacia.

**When contacting pastor pacia, kindly call the Parsonage (234-9811), rather than the Office (234-2387). You will get a quicker response. Thank you.**

## September Worship

09.06.15 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost (green)

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Proverbs 22.1-2, 8-9, 22-23

James 2.1-10, 11-13), 14-17

Psalms 125

Mark 7.24-37 +

09.13.15 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost (green)

Proverbs 1.20-33

James 3.1-12

Psalms 19

Mark 8.27-38 +

Lay Leader Bonnie Tryon

09.20.15 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost (green)

Proverbs 31.10-31

James 3.13-4.3; 4.7-8

Psalms 1

Mark 9.30-37 +

Lay Leader Christine Hibbard

09.27.15 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost (green)

Esther 7.1-6, 9-10; 9.20-22

James 5.13-20

Psalms 124

Mark 9.38-50 +

Lay Leader Lola Fletcher

### **Bible humor**

We take Scripture seriously, of course, but God also gave us the ability to laugh — and it's healthy to do so! Enjoy these Bible-based riddles:

Q: Who was the fastest runner in the Bible?

A: Adam. He was first in the human race.

Q: Where is baseball played in the Bible?

A: Genesis 1:1 reads "In the big inning." Then Eve stole first, and Adam stole second. Cain struck out Abel, and soon everything was rained out.

Q: Who was the best financier in the Bible?

A: Pharaoh's daughter. She went to the Nile bank and pulled out a little prophet.

Q: What was Boaz like before he got married?

A: Ruthless.

### **Perfect peace**

Peace is Christ's distinctive gift — not money, not worldly ease, not temporal prosperity. These are at best very questionable possessions. They often do more harm than good to the soul. They act as clogs and weights to our spiritual life.

Inward peace of conscience, arising from a sense of pardoned sin and reconciliation with God, is a far greater blessing. This peace is the property of all believers, whether high or low, rich or poor.

—J.C. Ryle

### **A prayer for uncertain times**

An hour before the 9/11 terrorist attacks, pastor and author Stan Purdum was reading Psalm 66, which includes the words, "We went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a spacious place" (v. 12, NRSV). After watching the destruction, Purdum composed a prayer that remains relevant today, as terrorism and threats often make peace seem more "specious" than "spacious":

O God of heaven and earth, who's bigger than nations and factions, be with us as we live through times of terror, despair and danger. Be the strength of people who've been touched personally by disaster. Come with healing to those who are injured. Be the eternal rest of those who've died. Be the energy, compassion and fortitude of those who must pick through the wreckage. Grant our leaders courage and a double portion of your wisdom. The day of universal brotherhood seems farther off than ever, O God, but help us not despair of trying to accomplish it. Strengthen our faith. In Jesus' name. Amen.

- "The day the power of love overrules the love of power, the world will know peace."

—Mahatma Gandhi

- "Be prepared for God to direct you to something you do not like, and teach you to like it!"

—J.I. Packer



## Prayer Requests

### Church

Lee Empie, Jr./cardiac surgery  
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

Peggy Wood/hospitalized  
Daniel Mereness (8 years old)/Stroke/in rehab  
Richard Nirschl/testing  
Bob Nirschl/treatment  
Christopher Gauthier/radiation & chemotherapy  
Alex Burch/broken bones/complications/multiple surgeries  
Ray Steidle/Nursing home  
Debbie Steidle/Parkinson's  
Margaret Springstead/heart and liver  
Isaac/Lyme's/high fever  
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  
Jenna/Scan and hysterectomy  
Richard Nirschl/at Marchand Manor  
Sue Jones/at Marchand Manor  
Dodi Chechniki/ALS  
Mike Bautochka/mass on thyroid, pneumonia

**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

Our sisters and brothers in Christ at Dorloo, Hyndsville, Mineral Springs and Warnerville United Methodist Churches  
All Teachers and students/blessings on the new school year  
Grand-parents serving as guardians for their grandchildren  
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 insecurity  
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](mailto:PASTORPACIA@LRCANDSRC.ORG)).

### Those homebound:

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

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

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

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

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

Richard Nirschl ( SRC)  
Marchand Manor  
121 Main St.  
Sharon Springs, NY 13459

### Church year update

We continue in the season Pentecost with the emphasis of discipleship and kingdom work (the Seasons of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany and Lent focus on the life of our Lord Jesus Christ). The color of the paraments (cloths) is green. The Season will continue through November, 22, Christ the King Sunday. The following Sunday, November 29, is the first Sunday of Advent.

### "Miss Ilene"

LRC gives thanks and praise to almighty God, and thanks for the memorial gifts of Erma Homes, Alice Palmer and Ilene Sichart, who made possible the purchase of the Digital Hymnal. "She" was dedicated August 23 as "Miss Ilene", to honor the many years of service Ilene gave to LRC and God's kingdom. Thanks be to God.

### I Wish You Enough

I wish you enough sun to keep your attitude bright.  
I wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun more.  
I wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive.  
I wish you enough pain so that the smallest joys in life appear much bigger.  
I wish you enough gain to satisfy your wanting.  
I wish you enough loss to appreciate all that you possess.  
I wish you enough hellos to get you through the final good-bye.  
They say it takes a minute to find a special person. An hour to appreciate them. A day to love them. And an entire lifetime to forget them." Bob Perks

### Memorial Service

On Friday, September 11 at Noon, St. Christopher's Church, Cobleskill, will host a brief service of Prayer in memory of the victims of 9/11/01. The order of worship will include inspirational hymns and Scripture, and prayers for peace, as well as for the persecuted Church worldwide.

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### **Grandparents are great!**

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"What a bargain grandchildren are," said comedy writer Gene Perret. "I give them my loose change, and they give me a million dollars' worth of pleasure."

When it comes to family heritage, grandparents are worth their weight in gold. They serve as storehouses of history and wisdom, helping children see how they fit into a family's legacy. Christian grandparents also provide a faith heritage that passes from generation to generation.

The apostle Paul acknowledged this important role of family elders when he wrote to young Timothy: "I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you" (2 Timothy 1:5, NRSV).

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### **Victory!**

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The world can be filled with its trials and swords,  
Its famines and perils, its peasants and lords,  
With power and heights and bitter despair,  
With sorrow and death and with crosses to bear.

Yet which one alone, or combined with the rest,  
Can wedge out God's love and the Christ he has blessed?  
For, no! There is nothing of evil or worth  
That can separate God from his children on earth!

—Peggy Ferrell



- SEPTEMBER**
- 3 Sam Riggins
  - 4 Verne Venette
  - 5 Shawn Van Aller
  - 7 Shane Hayes
  - 7 Christine Parsons
  - 11 Muriel Holmes
  - 15 Samantha Keaney
  - 16 Scarlet Smith
  - 18 Fred Rehl
  - 21 Lisa Boss
  - 26 Barb Sutphen
  - 28 Connor Stiedle

- SEPTEMBER**
- 2 John & Bonnie Tryon
  - 13 James & Michelle Keaney
  - 14 Warren & Pat Van Deusen



**GOD  
MADE YOU AS  
YOU ARE IN  
IN ORDER TO  
USE YOU AS HE  
PLANNED**

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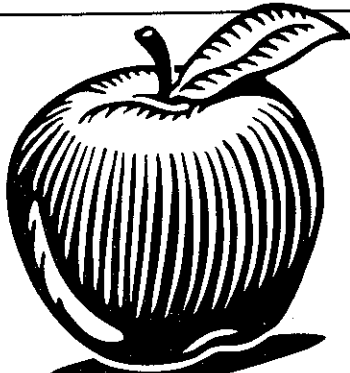
### **Your role**

We must remember throughout our lives that in God's sight there are no little people and no little places. Only one thing is important: to be consecrated persons in God's place for us, at each moment.

—Francis Schaeffer,  
*No Little People*



# Kid's Page



## AFTER-SCHOOL SNACK

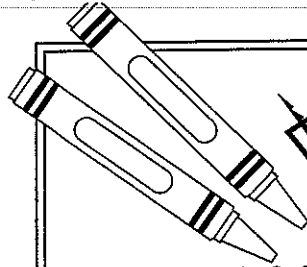
Enjoy this healthy apple snack after a busy day of learning.

### What you need:

- Apple
- Apple corer (optional)
- Peanut butter (or other spread)
- Pecan pieces
- Shredded coconut
- Chocolate chips

### What you do:

1. If you have an apple corer, remove the core. Then slice apple into thin rings. (If you don't have a corer, slice into rings first and then remove the core.)
2. Spread peanut butter across one side of each ring.
3. Sprinkle with pecans, coconut and chocolate chips.
4. Enjoy with a glass of milk!





## PUZZLE

### STAY NOURISHED

Eating nutritious foods such as apples helps keep our bodies healthy. But Proverbs tells us about other important sources of "nourishment."


*Directions: Use the words in the apples to complete Proverbs 3:7-9, NIV.*





Do not be  in your own ;

 the  and shun .

This will bring  to your 

and nourishment to  bones.

 the LORD  your wealth,

with the firstfruits of  your .

PROVERBS 3:7-9, NIV

Answer: Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones. Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops.



**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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Pacia's e-mail:  
[pastorpacia@lrcandsrc.org](mailto:pastorpacia@lrcandsrc.org).



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Phone: 518-234-2283

E-mail [lola756@wildblue.net](mailto:lola756@wildblue.net)

**Deadline: September 23rd**

Thanks to all for your information and

**MEMO BOARD**

September

5  
6,13,20,27

6  
13,20,27  
14

16,23

20  
20  
23

26  
26 & 27  
28 & 29

October

1 & 2  
September 29-October 2

Bryant/Thayer Wedding(LRC)  
LRC Worship 9:00 A.M.  
SRC Worship 11:00 A.M.

SRC Sunday School Meeting (after worship)  
SRC Sunday School for all ages 9:30 A.M.  
SRC/RCWM @ 6:30 p.m. Word: Time

Leader: Laura Davenport  
Program: Ecclesiastes - Finding Meaning in Life  
Time and Change – Lesson 3  
Bible Study 9:00 A.M.;

Evening Study Group 7:00, both @ the Parsonage(white house across the park from LRC, next to JWS Automotive)

**Christmas Collaboration & Family Offering (LRC)  
Special Offering (SRC)**

**October Reformer Deadline**  
Pie Sale @ McFadden Auction

LRC Rummage and Bake sale Drop offs  
Workers needed for set up

LRC Rummage And Bake Sale, Fri 9-3 Sat 9-1  
Pastor Pacia on retreat