

# The Reformer

Lawyersville and Sharon Reformed Churches 155

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 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**

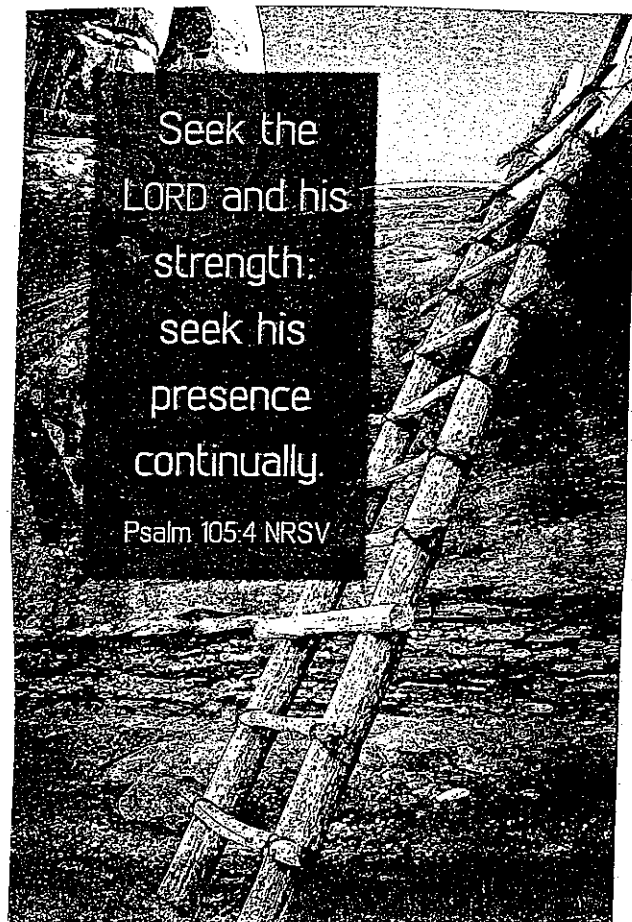
**SRC - Church Service**

**11:00 A.M.**

**Sunday School**

**9:30 A.M.**

**Rev. Pacia Vamvas**



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## Special dates

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- Labor Day, *September 1, 2014*
- National Grandparents Day, *September 7, 2014*
- Patriot Day, *September 11, 2014*
- Hispanic Heritage Month, *September 15–October 15, 2014*
- First Day of Autumn, *September 23, 2014*

### pastor pacia's ponderings

So... It was Wednesday. The day my portion of the Reformer needs to go to Lola. I have been staring at the monitor, on and off, for about the past six hours. I did not know what to write. Nothing solid formed in my brain. Then it came, the idea. My brain has been all over the place today. And often, isn't that what life is all about? So many things to be done, so many items requiring your attention. Everyday life is not at all every-day. So much happens over the course of a day. Today I visited a newborn. Today I started making plans for a memorial service. Today I drove Melina and her boyfriend to the train station in Schenectady; they are going to Montreal for the weekend. Today Melina and I talked about me driving her to St. Mary's College of Maryland for an open house. Today we talked about when she was in college. Today we talked about her first "big girl" job. Today Michael added to the deck. Today I added to the items to send to the thrift shop. (I have entered what I call the "urge to "purge phase of my life. I'm getting rid of a lot of unnecessary or unwanted items. This is definitely due to having to clean out my Aunt Grace's house, which is a huge undertaking). Today I planned a meal to take to the newborn's home. Today I planned a party for my son, Nicholas, who turned 32, and his son Kyle, who is turning 16. Today I read my daily dose of death and destruction. Today I read exquisite words of life. The book, a New York Times bestseller is

### One Thousand Gifts: A Dare to Live Fully Right Where You Are,

by Ann Voskamp. I highly recommend it. Her writing is almost mesmerizing as she describes the ordinary and the memorable moments of our days.

Life is filled with transitions - birth, death, birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, confirmations, weddings, funerals, homecomings and leaving home.

A pianist was being interviewed. He said it was not the notes that mattered as much as the space between each of the notes. The space is our everyday life, the 24 hours, or 1,440 minutes, or 86,400 seconds we are all given each day. It is important, and very healthy, to celebrate the small moments, the "ordinary" moments in our day. Each of those 86,400 seconds are given to us by the grace of God. May you live every day of your life. grace and peace, pacia.

## **P.O.D.**

The People of Discernment group has met over the past couple years. The group was born out of the question: "If these churches were to close, would anyone notice?" Over these years there has been conversation, prayer, meditation, surveys, and more to discern the future God has in mind for LRC/SRC. Much hard work was accomplished. Unfortunately, with people's many obligations, the group kept getting smaller. After much prayer, it was decided to disband the group. The final meeting, to celebrate/mourn will be 16 September. Please keep the members (Laura Davenport, Adrienne Cullen, Jill Cullen, Wil Ivins, Kelly Sperbeck, Bonnie Tryon) in prayer.

## **Website**

We have launched the new website! It is administered by Angela Kogler, Upstate NY IT. She uploads all the info herself, which was an issue with the former company. Her fees are also much more reasonable than the other company; we get much more and pay much less! Angela is very accommodating to our needs; she posts information in a timely fashion. The address remains the same: [WWW.LRCANDSRC.ORG](http://WWW.LRCANDSRC.ORG) (it is not case sensitive). The opening screen is vibrant and inviting. There are pictures of each church, along with each congregation's contact info. The taskbar lists several options – listing of each congregation separately, a calendar, members of Consistories, a Pastor's page with a blog and most recent sermons, prayer requests, directions, announcements, and ministries. **The Reformer will be added (we will have the option of sending the Reformer out by e-mail as well as snail mail, which will cut costs, as well as save Lola hours of work. If you would like to receive the Reformer electronically, please contact Lola).**

The website will be as good as we make it to be. Pictures of events (ex. Picnic in the Park, the Free Produce cart, fund-raisers) are all needed to present the congregations as vibrant and inviting. Even if you do not use a computer, or are lukewarm about the website, any pertinent information you provide will be important. IT CAN NOT BE STATED STRONGLY ENOUGH THAT THE WEBSITE WILL BE ATTRACTIVE TO THOSE WHO VISIT, TO KNOW LRC AND SRC ARE "ALIVE AND WELL", ONLY IF THE WEBSITE ALSO IS "ALIVE AND WELL." There is also an "in house" benefit – shut-ins will have weekly access to the sermon; contact information for Consistory members and calendar are included for reference; announcements (including cancelling worship) can be added; out-of-town folks will be able to see photos from an event.

Please also visit the website regularly. There is a number at the bottom of the opening screen which counts the number of "hits" (how many times the website has been visited). The more "hits" the better, to show there is interest in the website.

Please support this ministry central to the health and well-being of the congregations. In order to have oversight of what goes on the website, please send info to Kelly Sperbeck ([ksperbeck@lamontengineers.dom](mailto:ksperbeck@lamontengineers.dom)), Michael Vamvas ([trouble21559@yahoo.com](mailto:trouble21559@yahoo.com)) or myself ([PASTORPACIA@LRCANDSRC.ORG](mailto:PASTORPACIA@LRCANDSRC.ORG) , not case sensitive).

### 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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**Deadline: September 24th**

## MEMO BOARD

### September Calendar

- 7,14,21,28 LRC Worship 9:00 A.M.; SRC Sunday School for all ages 9:30 A.M. (begins 09.14); Worship 11:00 A.M.
- 8 SRC/RCWM @ 6:30 P.M. Leader: Laura Davenport Word: Friend  
Program: Jesus His Powerful Life, Friends and Enemies—Lesson #4
- 9 SRC Elders 5:30 P.M.; Consistory 6:00 P.M.
- 9 Men's Fellowship 7:00 P.M. @ the Parsonage (large white house across the park from LRC, next to JWS Automotive)
- 10,17,24 Bible Study 9:00 A.M.; Evening Study Group 7:00 P.M.  
@ the Parsonage
- 14 First day of SRC Sunday School (for all ages) 9:30 A.M.
- 16 Worship Team 5:00 P.M.; P.O.D. 6:30 P.M. @ LRC
- 18 LRC Deacons and Elders 6:00 P.M.;  
Consistory 6:30 P.M.
- 21 Special Offering (SRC)**
- 24 October Reformer Deadline**
- 30-Oct 3rd. Pastor Pacia on Retreat

### October Calendar (partial)

- 1,15,22,29 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);  
**(No Study 8 October)**
- 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.
- 6-12 pastor pacia on vacation



**SEPTEMBER**

- 3 Sam Riggins
- 4 Verne Venette
- 5 Michalea Pitt
- 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**

- 3 John & Bonnie Tryon
- 13 James & Michelle Keaney
- 14 Warren & Pat Van Deusen



**IT WILL BE  
OK IN  
THE END,  
IF IT'S  
NOT OK,  
IT'S NOT  
THE  
END!**



"Because I didn't have any decent church clothes. Why'd you join the choir?"

## Thank You

Many thanks for the calls, visits, visits and prayers during recent my hospitalization. The good news is that there are no cardiac or neurological concerns. With several vitals checks it was determined that what has been historically lower than average blood pressure is now something to keep an eye on. No worries, just something to be aware of. Folks have been so supportive of me on this twisty-turny medical journey; thank you again for your care.

## Thank you x2

Thank you also for concern for Michael on his shingles nightmare journey. Prayers were a boost through the terrible pain (those of you who have had shingles understand the severity of the pain). For cards and calls and especially prayer, he has felt enveloped in love and care.

## Baby Buchannon

Brandy Becker Buchannon is having a baby, a girl, in November. Kelly Sperbeck and Bonnie Tryon are coordinating collection of gifts for the baby. Please bring any items by Sunday, 28 September. Leave them in the Hall, in the Library area. Thank you for helping to welcome this sister in Christ.



## LRC Rummage and Bake Sale

When: October 3rd & 4th

Time: Friday 9 A.M. till 3 P.M. Saturday 9 A.M. till 1 P.M.

Hall will be open on the 28th & 29th of September to bring items for sale. We are in need of baked goods for the sale on Friday & Saturday. Help is needed each day as well on Saturday @ 1 P.M. to pack up left over items to be taken to ARC Thift Shop. Thank you all for your support.



Prayer Requests

Church

Steve DiCicco/back procedure  
 Muriel Homes/St. Johnsville Nursing Home  
 Helen Brown/Palatine Nursing Home/  
 declining  
 Tom Slater/increased dialysis  
 Vivian Empie/Tarpon Springs Nursing  
 Home/Hospice  
 Elli Schubert/cardiac  
 Veronica Clark/torn ACL surgery  
 The People of Discernment

Family/Loved Ones

Warren Comins/fractured spine/hematoma/  
 pneumonia  
 Jared van Wagenen/healing  
 Peggy Wood/several health issues  
 Cindy Shuart/stroke  
 Dan and Chris Parsons/pregnancy  
 Joan and Mason Springstead/strokes  
 Ron Tryon/healing of strength  
 Logan Hayes/diabetes/insulin pump  
 Heather Bivins/shoulder surgery  
 Donald Bennett/return of cancer  
 Jenna/breast cancer/new tumor  
 Paul Gordayer/cancer  
 Bob Speidell/retinopathy  
 Scott Speidell/leukemia/chemo  
 Dodi Chechniki/ALS  
 Chuck Ferrell/employment

**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 returning to school  
 College freshmen (esp. if living away from home)  
 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  
 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

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)).

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**At the core**

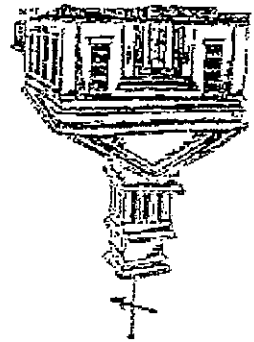
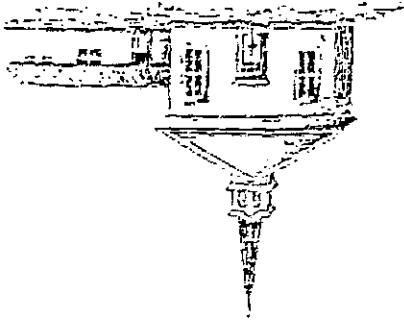
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Prayer is the core of our day. Take prayer out, and the day would collapse, would be pithless, a straw blown in the wind. But how can you pray — really pray, I mean — with one against whom you have a grudge or whom you have been discussing critically with another? Try it. You will find it cannot be done.

—Amy Carmichael



**LAWYERSVILLE and SHARON REFORMED CHURCHES**

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**DENNIS THE MENACE** By Marcus Hamilton



"I LIKE CHURCH... I CAN TELL GOD THINGS  
I WOULDN'T DARE TELL MY PARENTS."