

Pastor: R. Garret Szantner **Director of Church Music:** Jean LaCrosse
Director of Faith Formation: Amy Chevalier **Office Manager:** Emily Conti

Social Gathering for Seniors: Susan Spring-Meggs would like to invite you to a new small-group for seniors at Lynnwood. This group will have their first meeting on January 7th, with a snow-date of January 14th.

City Mission: A meeting will be held after worship on January 15th for those interested in serving at the City Mission. At which time we will choose a date and time for the Lynnwood group to lend a hand. If unable to attend, please let Carol or Mike Lynch know if you are interested in participating, if you have not done so already. Thanks!!!

2024 Consistory Nominations: Interested in serving as an elder or deacon? Contact a member of the Nominations Committee: Pastor Garret, Kathy Mix, or Suzanne Wilber.

Poinsettias: Order envelopes for poinsettias in the narthex. Return to the church office by December 17th with \$12 (cash or checks to LRC). Specify on the envelope if it's in memory or honor. Pick up after Christmas Eve service.

The Yearly Toy Collection for City Mission in Schenectady will take place today. Please put all unwrapped gifts underneath the tree in the narthex.

Angel Tree: All Project Angel Tree gifts are to be returned by next Sunday, December 10th. Gifts are to be wrapped with an angel tag securely attached. If you are available to volunteer to deliver these gifts from 12/13 - 12/16 please contact Kathy Ader (518)456-3648.

Stewardship: All 2023 pledge monies must be received by Thursday December 28, 2023 in order to be recorded for 2023.

The Giving Tree: Within the upcoming weeks Lynnwood will continue our yearly Giving Tree program. All are encouraged to donate knitted, used, or excess winter clothing items for those in need during the Holiday season. For more information please contact Betsy Hollander at (518)393-1276.

Christmas Eve Service: After service a brunch will be provided, in addition to the normally scheduled coffee hour, courtesy of the Fellowship Team. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. This will be a nice way to celebrate Christmas together as a community.

Suburban Sounds will be hosting a Holiday Concert at the Guilderland library Sunday December 17th 2023, all are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Later Today	Coffee Fellowship Bible Study with Tom 11:00 Street Soldiers Meal Prep 11:30 Suburban Sounds 5:00
Tues 12	Prayer Shawl 12:00 Girl Scout Troop 5048 6:00
Weds 13	Mission Team Meets 5:30 Stretching with Friends 6:00 Worship Design Meeting 6:30 Choir 7:30
Thur 14	Reports to Consistory Due In His Presence 9:30
Sat 16	Maria's Prayer Group 10:00

Birthdays Stacey Duensing 12/14, Nancy Mohr 12/17, Walt Cogswell 12/18,
Jonathan de Forest 12/23, Jesus 12/25

LYNNWOOD

REFORMED CHURCH

DECEMBER 10th, 2023



Women of The Old Testament: Esther

Esther 4:11-17

3714 Carman Road □ Schenectady NY 12303 □ (518) 356-4327
www.lynnwoodreformed.org □ office@lynnwoodreformed.org

Welcome Daniele Reuckert
 Prelude Janith Mason & Judy Pardee
 Call to Worship Doris Spitzer

We gather -

**people of faith and no faith,
 people of hope and no hope,
 people of peace and no peace.**

We gather,

**with the longing to be made whole again
 if just for this time, here and now.**

We gather with a prayer,
 however vague and tenuous,
 that in spite of the absence of angels,
 wise men, and shepherds,

we might still be a witness to the birth of all love.

We gather,

as ready as we'll ever be for this story of faith to unfold!

Song of Gathering "Sing We the Song of Emmanuel"

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God,

during this season we realize we busy ourselves with many preparations.

We neglect our relationships with you and our neighbors.

We have failed to love as you love us.

We do not always live in the peace or joy of the Good News of Jesus.

Forgive us, and mend what is broken.

Silent confession

Merciful God,

**Open unto us light for our darkness, courage for our fear, strength for our
 weakness, compassion for our apathy.**

**Prepare our hearts to receive Christ, who brings us hope in our despair,
 peace in our turmoil, joy in our sorrow, and love in our loneliness.**

Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Song of Praise "My Soul Cries Out (Canticle of the Turning)"

Children's Message: The Advent Candle of Peace

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Esther 4:11-17

Amy Chevalier

Sermon

"Women of The Old Testament: Esther" Kathleen Youngs

Choir Anthem

In Memory of Ruth Anne Burby

"Noel"

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Ministry Updates

Amy Chevalier

The Offering

Prayer of Dedication

Andy Pris

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Daniele Reuckert

GOING OUT WITH GOD'S BLESSING

*Song of Sending

"Arise, Shine for Your Light Has Come"

*Benediction

Postlude

** indicates standing for those able. **Bold type** indicates congregational response
 At Lynnwood Reformed Church, we affirm the great diversity of God's creation in our communities.
 This diversity includes persons from various economic, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds, gender
 expressions and sexual identities, and gifted with a variety of abilities. We also believe that God's
 unconditional love, as demonstrated through Jesus Christ, is intended for all. As such, all people are
 welcome to participate fully in the life of the church.*