

The Pastor's Notebook from the desk of Pastor Garret

The Advent wreath is an important symbol in our faith. Let's say you are walking down the street and you walk past a bakery with a sign that says, "Fresh bread baked daily" and you notice the wonderful smell wafting through the air. You know you can expect some pretty great bread when you walk through that bakery door.

In much the same way, the Advent wreath is like that sign that we see and it brings to mind the wonderful promises that God has for us. Throughout the season of Advent we will take time at the beginning of every service to light a candle and remember the gifts that God gives to us in Jesus Christ.

"Advent" means waiting. The four week season leading up to Christmas is a season marked by expectation. Kind of like the expectation of waiting for presents to show up under the tree on Christmas morning. The season of Advent remembers a time when Israel waited for God to show up and bring about a change that would heal the world. As Christians we believe that God began that work of healing in Jesus, but God has not completed it.

Advent is a time when we celebrate the gifts that God has already given to us in Jesus and how they help us as we wait for God to finish the good work God started.

Each week we will light a candle for one of four gifts: hope, love, peace, joy. Most calendars list these gifts in order of hope, peace, joy, and love. You might notice one pink candle in the wreath, which represents the theme of joy. The candle at the very center is the white Christ candle, which we will wait to light on Christmas Eve.

This year at Lynnwood we are following a guided theme called, "What Can't Wait?" This is a theme designed by a group called A Sanctified Art, which is a group of theologians, pastors, artists, poets, and musicians, mostly women. The theme is designed to get us thinking about how to live into these themes and be a gift to this world through our daily living.

As we approach this season it might be a good thing to take stock of how God has provided and how you can be a gift that God is offering to another.

When you look back:

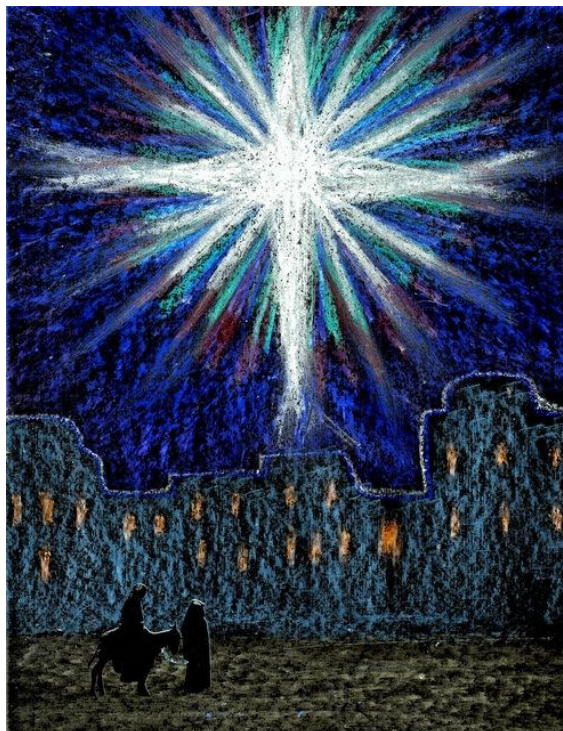
- How did God provide for you?
- When did God give you peace?
- When did you find joy?
- Where did you experience love?

When you take stock of life right now:

- What do you hope for going forward?
- Where are you needing peace in your life or where is a place that needs peace?
- How can you bring joy to another person's life?
- What love are you hoping for and what love can you offer?

My prayer for you and our family of faith is that we would experience the wonderful, surprising presence and power of God who is with us as we wait.

Pastor Garret



UPDATES from CONSISTORY

- We spoke with Jonathan Vanderbeck for 2.5 hours about the Appreciative Inquiry and steps going forward. The Consistory spoke about a plan to form a Design Team that will help us find ways to live into our dream
- We made plans for the December Brooks BBQ
- We received updates about the job openings of the Director of Faith Formation and Worship Intern.
- The team plans to spend the majority of the December Consistory meeting talking about Jan's retirement and the Office Manager position.
- We spoke about health insurance for the office manager.
- We received an update about the Employee Handbook that will be finalized within the next month.

Deacons	Elders
Shannon Comparetta	Marian Borgia
Nancy LaPietro	Mary Chew
Kathy Mix	Jane Davis
	Randy Mix
	Suzanne Wilber

2022 year end contributions

The Deacons would like you to know that 2022 pledges must be in by December 28, 2022 to be counted for the 2022 year. Whenever mailing contribution, please address "Attn: Deacons."

Congregational Meeting January 1, 2023 The Lynnwood Reformed Church Consistory is calling a congregational meeting on Sunday, January 1st, 2023 for the purpose of presenting the slate of new consistory members. The meeting will begin promptly after the worship service. There is a full slate of consistory members that will be presented. However, if you would like to nominate someone you can bring that to the floor of the meeting. If you have any questions feel free to reach out to Pastor Garret or a member of Consistory.

Christmas Eve

At 7pm on Christmas Eve (Saturday, December 24th) we will have a service of lessons, carols, and other festive things. It will be a wonderful celebration of the birth of Jesus! You can join us online if you would like. However, I think it would be awesome for you and your loved ones to join us in the sanctuary! It is always a warm environment and a special moment to light candles for the singing of Silent Night. I hope you are able to join us!

Christmas Day and New Year's Worship

The Worship Team and Consistory received your feedback on whether to have a Christmas Day service. Overall there were 36 responses who said they would not like to have an in-person service, 5 who said they would prefer a virtual or recorded service, and 6 who said they would attend a service in person. In light of this ***we are not going to have a service on Christmas Day. We are, however, going to have a service on New Year's Day.***

Youth Fellowship

Youth Fellowship meets Sunday evenings (except the last Sunday of the month) from 5:30-7:00.

- December 11th: Game Night! (Bring a favorite board game)
- December 18th: Christmaspalooza
- December 25th: No Youth Group! Merry Christmas!
- January 1st: No Youth Group! Happy New Year!
- January 8th: Dinner with Friends! Taco Night!
- January 15th: Ice Skating in Schenectady (rink near casino)
- January 22nd: Helping Hands (preparing meals for Street Soldiers)
- January 29th: No Youth Group

Gratitude

As Christmas approaches I wish to thank all of the church musicians for the wonderful blessings added to our services throughout the year. Without the music you bring, all seasons would be something far less meaningful. You bless us all year long in every season and occasion with your wonderful gifts of sacred music. You combine your gifts, talents and repetitive hours of practice in order to bring the music to honor our God and Savior Jesus Christ. You bring your voice, sounds and hearts to every part of the service. I hold you in high esteem!!



Additionally, I give thanks to the congregations for your support and expressions of gratitude and gratefulness for music. Your kindness is much appreciated.

Martin Luther wrote, "I truly desire that all Christians would love and regard as worthy the lovely gift of music, which is a precious, worth, and costly treasure given to mankind by God.

Merry Christmas and blessing for a wonderful New Year!

Jean La Crosse, Director of Church Music

On behalf of the Stewardship team we would like to thank all of the volunteers that made the Thank you Breakfast on Dedication Sunday a huge success. We would also like to show our appreciation and thank Doug Dean for jumping in and helping out when we lost one of our designated cooks to illness. Thank you everyone from the bottom of our hearts. It is you who make up the community of Lynnwood Reformed Church.

A huge thank to all our bakers who came through for our very successful bake sale on Election day. Also thank you to all the volunteers who sat with the sale throughout the day! We raised a total of \$850, divided between relief efforts for Hurricane Ian and our youth retreat to Camp Fowler. We received this note of gratitude:

I pray you and your family/friends had a wonderful Thanksgiving! I want to thank you and your congregation for their generous support for our Disaster Response work with Hurricane Ian!

We've had initial crews there providing emergency relief and cleanup/counseling and are now establishing a facilitated site where we'll host volunteer teams for the next couple of years to continue long-term assistance to those that need it.

What we found out was that there are many, many groups working on the Gulf Side, but when the hurricane crossed Florida, an area around Daytona Beach had some of the worst flooding - and no one was helping those families. So our work site is actually on the Atlantic side, where we can better be utilized.

Thanks again for helping - and BTW. I represent World Renew to the RCA churches. If there's any way I can help, please let me know.

God bless,
Phil Smart, Church Relationships, WorldRenew.net

Appreciation Giving at Christmas

Please join us in giving thanks

As the Christmas season is upon us, we would like to acknowledge the incredible dedication of the staff at Lynnwood Reformed Church. As a show of our appreciation, the consistory will be collecting monetary donations (cash only) which will be presented to the staff during the Dec 18 service.

If you would like to give a donation for the LRC staff, please see or contact Mary Chew or Shannon Comparetta, preferably before Dec 18.



Mission

What's up with Mission Team? Like every other team we are trying to get back together with our plans after two years of the pandemic. We have a small crew of four with Tom and I co-chair. We have both been involved in the Mission Team for several years.

The Mission Team is supported by a percentage of the yearly budget and then divided up each month to give to 12 missions which are local, national, and international. In the past we have highlighted the mission of the month so folks can see where the money is going. Additionally, we have facilitated clothing drives, food drives, hands on meal serving, Christmas collections for organizations, and other things that come up during the year. Each week we collect food and deliver to the Guilderland Food Pantry and SICM. The Guilderland Food Pantry also provides us with foods they cannot use which we delivered to SICM in our church's' name.

Moving forward: Our goal is to start to look at the Mission Team's purpose and try to re-evaluate what we do and how. We have contacted other churches to see how/what they do. We will work with consistory to figure out how we can get input from the congregation on missional ideas, increased participation from folks and the best ways to outreach to local facilities and groups.

Thank you all for the support in all endeavors that have been undertaken in the past. Stay tuned for some **NEW** missional opportunities ahead.

Patty and Tom Schardt

It has come to the attention of the Mission Team that our City Mission is once again serving meals in their dining hall. They are looking for volunteers from 4-6pm to serve dinner. We used to sign and go as a group from LRC. We always had a good time and found it a very rewarding experience. Times have changed and we are missing some dedicated volunteers.



We are looking for your input as we move forward. If you are interested in this worthy Mission, would you sign up in the narthex? If we can get a group together we can all sign up on line for a particular day. There will be a sign up sheet in January or you can call Peg Kniskern or Patty Schardt for details or if you are interested. Thank you.

Did you know?



Each day at the City Mission staff, volunteers, and residents are working hard to serve nearly 700 meals to folks living at the Mission and community.

The bulletin board near the Library has lots of correspondence from our mission partners. Here you can learn more about how lives are changed with the help of our mission gifts. Take a look!

What's
new?

Would YOU like to submit an article to The Life of Lynnwood?

What's new? Are you a member of a church team with news to share? Have you a blessing you would like to share? What are you grateful for? Have you suffered a loss and would like prayer?

We welcome your information and input. This is YOUR newsletter!

Please submit your articles no later than the 20th of the month.

Articles are best emailed in MS Word, or unformatted, to the office at office@lynnwoodreformed.org.

You are also encouraged to submit photos of church events! Thanks!

Announcements for the Sunday bulletin are due on Wednesday by 2:00 pm.

Project Angel Tree

What a fantastic response! All tags were taken on the first day.

All wrapped gifts need to be returned to the church by Sunday, December 13.

Folks are needed to deliver the gifts. See Kathy if you are willing to help beginning December 16-19. This is a heartwarming experience.



Christmaspalooza!

Sunday, December 18 at 6:30

We will be singing songs together outside by the bonfire!

There will be cookies and hot cocoa to share with one another.

There will also be a tree to decorate and to place your prayers on.

If you would like to help by making some cookies, please let a member of the Fellowship team know!



Giving continues in January with the GIVING TREE

During the month of January a "GIVING" Tree will be located in the narthex where you may place gloves, hats, mittens, scarves, (for children *and* adults), heavy socks for adults, or other items you would like to donate to the Schenectady City Mission. This mission project sponsored by Lynnwood Women will help so many who come to the mission with cold hands and feet unable to purchase these items themselves. Lynnwood Folk have always been so generous with lovely handmade or store purchased items. You may bring your donations on Sunday morning or drop them off during office hours starting Tuesday, January 3. Coordinator, Betsy Hollander, would be pleased to answer any questions.



Feeding the Hungry and Homeless

You can help! Just about every Sunday there is activity in the kitchen as food is being prepared to be distributed to the hungry and homeless in Schenectady. If you would like to lend a hand anytime between 11:30 to 2:00, just show up! No experience necessary! You can get a few friends together, too. Ellen Robbiano is here cooking just about every week, and appreciates any help. She then delivers the meals to Zion Lutheran Church in Schenectady for free distribution to those in need - no questions asked.

StreetSoldiers, founded in Albany in 2016, is a collaboration of impassioned volunteers who've come together to provide comfort and basic necessities to the area's homeless and less fortunate populations. This is done through community donation and reflects the best principles of grassroots action. StreetSoldiers is not a 501(c)3, nor is it in affiliation under another organization's 501c3. They "may not be able to change the world but we can change the world for each person who joins us – with smiles, kindness and compassion." This is simple, direct, people helping people.

Want more info? Feel free to contact Mary Chew, and or go to <https://streetsoldiers.community> or find them on Facebook: **StreetSoldiers - Schenectady**.

BIRTHDAYS

2 Sandy Lundstedt
 3 Robert La Pietro
 8 Paisley Charvat
 9 Greg Comparetta
 12 Jean Dean
 17 Matthew Lombardo
 Nancy Mohr
 18 Walt Cogswell
 19 Spencer Gilbert
 20 Payton Charvat
 23 Jonathon DeForest
 26 Bill Clark
 28 Frank Amigo
 Susan VanDerWende
 31 Jackie Truax
 Jan 1
 Charlotte Amigo
 John Watson

***Have we missed
 your birthday?***

Just contact the office!

***Please check the
 Directory in the narthex
 and let us know of any
 changes.***

December Calendar

Th Dec 1	<In His Presence 9:30-11:30> Band 6:30	Fri Dec 16	<Pine Bush Players 4:00>
Sat Dec 3	BROOKS' BBQ	Sat Dec 17	<Maria's Prayer Group 10am> Suburban Sounds 10:30
Sun Dec 4	Communion Fellowship team 11:15 Youth Group Dinner 5:30 Suburban Sounds 5:00	Sun Dec 18	Cooking/Street Soldiers 11:30 <Hudson Mohawk Recorder 2pm> Suburban Sounds 6:15 Christmaspalooza 6:30
Mon Dec 5	Choir 10:39	Tue Dec 20	Newsletter deadline Consistory <Girls Scout Troop 5048 6:00>
Tue Dec 6	Faith Formation 4:30 <Girl Scout Troop 5048 6pm> Building & Property 6:00	Wed Dec 21	Stretching with Friends 6pm Choir 7:30
Wed Dec 7	Stretching with Friends 5:45 Worship team 6:30 Choir 7:30	Th Dec 22	<In His Presence 9:30-11:30> Band 6:30
Thu Dec 8	<In His Presence 9:30-11:30> <Girl Scout Troop 5011 6:00> Band 6:30	Fri Dec 23	<Pine Bush Players 4:00>
Fri Dec 9	Suburban Sounds 10:30 <Pine Bush Players 4:00>	Sat Dec 24	<Maria's Prayer Group 10am> Christmas Eve 7:00
Sat Dec 10	<Maria's Prayer Group 10am> Tech Party @ Amanda's 5:00	Sun Dec 25	Merry Christmas!
Sun Dec 11	Cooking/Street Soldiers 11:30 Advent Come Immanuel 4:00 Youth Game night 5:30 Suburban Sounds 6:00	Mon Dec 26	Office closed
Mon Dec 12	Mission Team 6:30	Tue Dec 27	Prayer Shawl noon <Girls Scout Troop 5048 6:00>
Tue Dec 13	Prayer Shawl noon <Girls Scout Troop 5048 6:00>	Wed Dec 28	Stretching with Friends 6pm
W Dec 14	Stretching with Friends 6pm Choir 7:30	Thu Dec 29	<In His Presence 9:30-11:30> Band 6:30
Th Dec 15	Reports to Consistory due <In His Presence 9:30-11:30> <Girl Scout Troop 5005 6:30> Band 6:30	Fri Dec 30	<Pine Bush Players 4:00>
		Sun Jan 1	Communion Suburban Sounds 5:00
		Mon Jan 2	Office closed
		JANUARY 18 - ANNUAL REPORTS DUE <community use>	

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 Garret Szantner
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RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

**TURN IN
 YOUR ARTICLES
 EARLY!**

RE M I N D E R :

**DEADLINE FOR
 NEWSLETTER
 ARTICLES IS
 December 20**

Bulletin Insert

Bulletin insert information is due
 no later than **2pm on Wednesday.**

Not receiving our emails?

If you would like to be included on
 our church's email list, prayer list,
 or newsletter list, please send us an
 email with your address and
 request. Thanks!



Christmas Music

.. ———— ★ ———— ..

4:00PM SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS

Christ the King Church, Sumter Avenue, Guilderland

Songs and readings by vocal and handbell choirs from eight Guilderland churches, a combined choir of more than 100 singers, and carols sung by all.

*Sponsored by the Guilderland Interfaith Council
to benefit the Guilderland Food Pantry.*

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4:00PM SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

COME IMMANUEL

Lynnwood Reformed Church, 3714 Carman Road, Guilderland

An Advent service of Carols and Lessons to heighten our anticipation for the Christ child's birth with combined choirs of Lynnwood Reformed Church & Suburban Sounds, Lynnwood Praise Band, and Pine Bush Players Recorder Consort


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2:00PM SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

SONGS OF THE SEASON

Guilderland Public Library

Enjoy this popular annual concert of seasonal songs with the Suburban Sounds Community Chorus





REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.
AFTER CHRISTMAS DONATE THE CONTENTS TO THE
GUILDERLAND FOOD PANTRY

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni & cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit cocktail
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - canned vegetable soup
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - jelly or jam
- December 13 - canned chicken
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - box of oatmeal
- December 17 - package of pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - canned corn
- December 22 - canned pineapple
- December 23 - canned carrots
- December 24 - canned green beans



“Neighbors Helping Neighbors”
guilderlandfoodpantry.com