

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: Volunteer opportunities available at The Mission for one-time tasks like preparing and serving dinner or participating in special activities. Flexible scheduling on weekdays or weekends. Sign up as a group using the Google form:

<https://forms.gle/88ok71jnGYbP584Z8> or contact Mike Lynch (518-396-9042, mikelynch3@yahoo.com) or Carol Lynch (518-396-6875, carollynch3@yahoo.com).

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 on Sunday, December 10th. Please bring unwrapped gifts to the church service to place under our tree.

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.

Later Today	Coffee Fellowship Bible Study with Tom 11:00 Street Soldiers Meal Prep 11:30 Suburban Sounds 5:00
Mon 04	Fellowship Meets 5:00 Mission Team Meets 6:30
Tues 05	Building & Property Meets 6:00 Girl Scout Troop 5048 6:00
Weds 06	Faith Formation Meets 4:30 Stretching with Friends 6:00 Worship Team Meets 6:30 Choir 7:30
Thur 07	In His Presence 9:30
Sat 09	Maria's Prayer Group 10:00

Birthdays Robert LaPietro 12/03, Greg Comparetta 12/09,

LYNNWOOD

REFORMED CHURCH

DECEMBER 3RD, 2023



Women of The Old Testament: Esther

Esther 2:1-18

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

Welcome Mary Chew

Prelude: Sicilienne in G Minor, Opus 78 a Monsieur William Henry Squire
Cello Solo Mike Hall

Call to Worship Walt Cogswell

In God's house, we can be joyful.

We can be grateful. We can be hopeful.

In God's house, we can be weary.

We can be anxious. We can be grieving.

In God's house, we can be honest—

**inspired or tired, delighted or doubtful,
connected or curious, and everything in between.**

This is God's house. You are welcome exactly as you are.

Let us worship the Living God!

Song of Gathering "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we are weary.

For weary bodies that ache and cry out, we pray:

Forgive us for pushing ourselves too hard.

Reminds us that we deserve Sabbath rest.

For weary minds, overwhelmed and saturated with news, we pray:

Forgive us for creating so many distractions.

Remind us that in the quiet, we can hear you.

For weary hearts that long feel the joy of this season, we pray:

Forgive us for being impatient with ourselves.

**Remind us that healing takes time,
and that joy and grief can coexist.**

For the wear edges of our faith that struggle to hold onto hope.

Forgive us. Remind us that your good news knows no bounds.

Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Song of Praise "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

Children's Message: The Advent Candle of Hope

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading Esther 2:1-18 Walt Cogswell

Sermon "Women of The Old Testament: Esther" Pastor Garret

Choir Anthem "A Light in the Heart of Winter"

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Meaning and Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Story of the Meal

...These are the gifts of God, for us, the people of God!

Sharing the Communion

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Ministry Updates

Amy Chevalier

The Offering

Prayer of Dedication

Kathy Mix

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Mary Chew

GOING OUT WITH GOD'S BLESSING

*Song of Sending

"Christ Be Our Light"

*Benediction

Postlude: Romance: "L'ame evaporee" Claude Debussy Mike Hall, Cello

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.*