

## The Pastor's Notebook from the desk of Pastor Garret

This begins the season of Lent. Lent is a forty day season in the church year that we typically refer to as penitential, meaning it is reflective, specifically on things that are not right or aligned with God in the world or in our lives. This year on Ash Wednesday, February 22, we will begin Lent by gathering to read scripture, share communion, and be marked by ashes.

Perhaps you have celebrated Ash Wednesday in the past, but perhaps for some this is altogether a strange service. I remember going to the gym following an Ash Wednesday service and receiving strange looks as to why I had a black smudge on my forehead.

The roots of this practice can be found in two experiences shared by people in the Old Testament. People would put dust on their head when some calamity happened and when they wanted to mark themselves as lowly. It was also used as a marker of people who knew they needed to make a change, so they would put on sackcloth and throw ashes upon their head.

Christians begin the 40 day season of Lent, which is a season of preparation for celebrating the risen Christ on Easter morning, by being marked with ashes. Thus, in this mark of ash we remember and proclaim three things for our Lenten journey: ***I am human, I am lowly, I am of Christ.***

The mark of dust harkens back to the moment of creation when God knelt to make man out of the dust. It is a moment that suggests that we are created, we are not self-made. We are made for intimate connection and reliance upon God for life. And God calls our humanness, "good." So Lent is about celebrating who we are as created beings of an incredible Creator! It is about reflecting on and celebrating the wonderfully complex truth: ***I am human.***



The mark of dust is most obviously about the lowliness of life. The mark of ash upon our forehead is about what Jan Richardson says in her poem, *Blessing the Dust*, "All those days you felt like dust, like dirt, as if all you had to do was turn your face toward the wind and be scattered to the four corners." The mark of dust is about the parts of our life and this world we actively lament to God. The mark of dust is about our lament for the dreams that are dashed or the ways life can change for the worse in an instant; for the ways we wish we could take back some of the things we said or did, but know we can't go back; for the ways we feel dead inside or lack purpose; for the broken relationships and families and communities; for the injustices in this world that seem to taunt us and those that go unnoticed. The mark of dust says: ***I am lowly; this world is broken.***

The mark is about the delight of being human and the struggles we face. In this way, the message of Ash Wednesday can appeal to any person who is scattered across the four winds of this world.

Last of all, we believe that this smudge of dirt is a hopeful thing. We are marked by a cross. The cross is the way God chooses to make Godself known in this world. So that whenever someone saw a cross—this horrible instrument of torture developed by humans—they might remember the way God shared in all that we are--our humanity and our sorrows. To be marked with the cross of dust is a declaration: ***I am of Christ.*** I am of the God who made me wonderfully well, who shared our sorrow, and who points us to a future that is unimaginably more than we could ever ask or imagine.

We share the dust because we share in the life of Jesus--his humanity, his sorrows, his hopeful future. May this Lent be an opportunity for you to come home to your own heart and to God.

# UPDATES FROM CONSISTORY

## ***This past month at Consistory we...***

- Said goodbye to Marian Borgia and Jane Davis, and welcomed new Consistory members: Andy Pris and Amanda Wilber as Deacons; Neil Satterly and Daniele Rueckert as Elders.
- Planned the Consistory retreat.
- Received an extensive overview of the proposed 2023 budget.
- Received an update from Pastor Garret about an audio demo by a sound engineer to improve audio in the sanctuary.
- Received an update from Shannon Comparetta on the state of the Appreciative Inquiry Design Team.

**2023 Assessments** - The contribution you make when you pay your own Classis Assessment frees money in our own church budget for outreach and mission —both locally and in the wider church and communities around us. The 2023 assessment is the same as last year: \$108.01 per member. Simply notate "RCA Assessment" on your payment. Thanks!

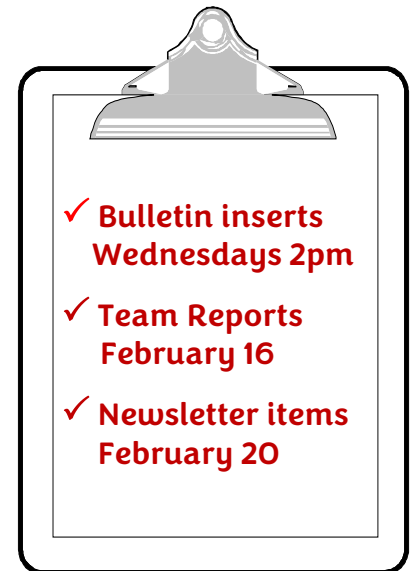
## **2023 Consistory**

### **Deacons**

Shannon Comparetta  
Nancy LaPietro  
Kathy Mix  
Andy Pris  
Amanda Wilber

### **Elders**

Mary Chew  
Randy Mix  
Daniele Rueckert  
Suzanne Wilber  
Neil Satterly



## **Lynnwood Church Directory**

A new directory of Lynnwood's active members and adherents is planned to be available in February, after consistory has made appointments. It will include names, (children & adult), addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses of those active in the life of Lynnwood.

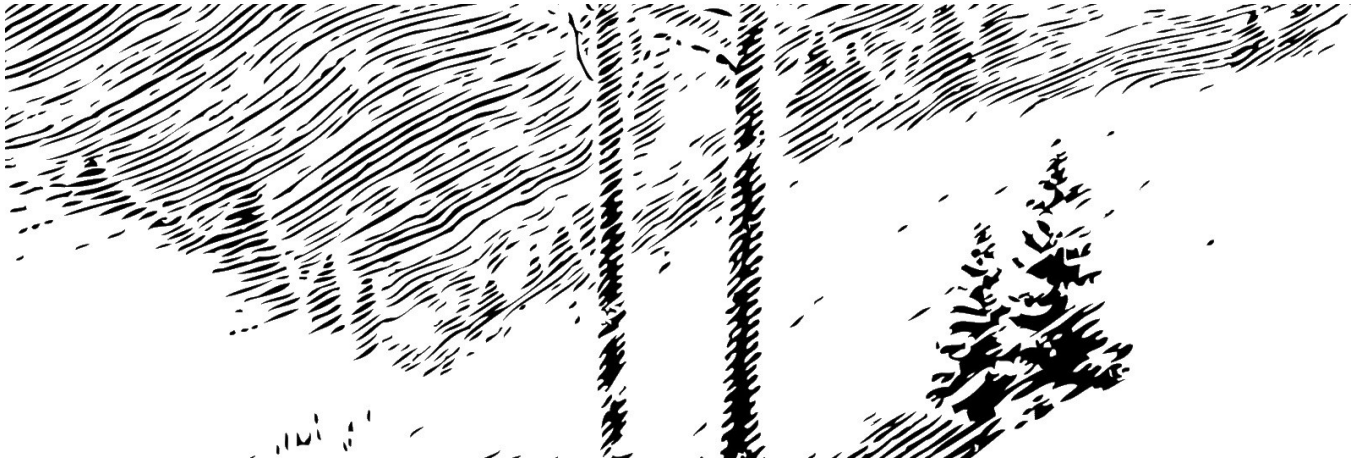
Please check the Directory in the narthex and notify the church office as soon as possible of any changes or additions of which you may be aware. Call the office, email [office@lynnwoodreformed.org](mailto:office@lynnwoodreformed.org), leave a note on the desk, or call and leave a message (356-4327).

**Are you on our lists?** Contact the office if you would like to be placed on our Weekly news list, Newsletter list, and or Prayer list.

**Where is my...?** Please check the Lost & Found and the exchange shelves in the coatroom for any items you have forgotten. There are many items and dishes left behind from church events.

# Music Notes

Recently, I was invited for lunch and to watch a feature film production of "I Heard the Bells" filmed by Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, Pa. The poem, "Christmas Bells", was penned on Christmas Day 1864 by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow following his son's wounding in the Civil War. The poet's expression was his hope that peace would return to the country. Later, in my searching for contemporary music for our Praise Band, I found this hymn sung on YouTube by a performer named Massey. I found it interesting, as in this arrangement it has a Celtic feel. Little did I know the history.



*A winter hymn for you -*

## 'Tis Winter Now, the Fallen Snow

Author: Samuel Longfellow

'Tis winter now; the fallen snow  
has left the heavens all coldly clear;  
through leafless boughs the sharp winds blow,  
and all the earth lies dead and drear.

And yet God's love is not withdrawn;  
his life within the keen air breathes;  
his beauty paints the crimson dawn,  
and clothes each branch with glittering wreaths.

And though abroad the sharp winds blow,  
and skies are chill, and frosts are keen,  
home closer draws her circle now,  
and warmer glows her light within.

O God, you give the winter's cold,  
as well as summer's joyous rays,  
you warmly in your love enfold,  
and keep us through life's wintry days.

Samuel Longfellow, B. A., brother of the Poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, was born at Portland, Maine, June 18, 1819, and educated at Harvard, where he graduated in Arts in 1839, and in Theology in 1846. On receiving ordination as an Unitarian Minister, he became Pastor at Fall River, Massachusetts, 1848; at Brooklyn, 1853; and at Germantown, Pennsylvania, 1860.

[https://hymnary.org/text/tis\\_winter\\_now\\_the\\_fallen\\_snow](https://hymnary.org/text/tis_winter_now_the_fallen_snow)

# Gratitude

## Angel Tree Project Wrap-Up



First, I would like to thank Jean Dean for asking me to take over the Angel Tree Project. Although at times a challenge, the gratitude from the caregivers is wonderful.

It takes about fifteen people to call the caregivers for gift ideas, to sort the gifts and then deliver the gifts. Then it takes so many of you who took an angel, shopped and wrapped the gifts and brought them back in a very timely fashion.

A big thank you to the Stewardship who planned the "Thank You" breakfast for the same day the angels were posted. The angels were snatched up entirely before noon that day!!

We were able to deliver gifts to 38 children. We were given 37 names, could not reach caregivers for 8 of them, but the callers came up with 9 children who were also in the household. Each child received two gifts amounting to almost \$2,000 in generosity from the donors.

Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Kathy Ader

---

Friends of Lynnwood,

Please accept our thanks for the many messages expressing sympathy and caring during the death of our family member. Rusty, Desiree and Kyle VanSyckle, Laura and Todd Reynolds, Daniel and Sharon VanSyckle, Matt and Brittney Vicalvi, and their mother/grandmother Jean La Crosse.

---

We are grateful to our community groups who have met at Lynnwood and who donate goods to the food pantries: **Girl Scout Troops 5005, 5011, and 5048; Buy Nothing Facebook group, In His Presence, The Taiwanese American Association of the Capital District, and the Hudson Mohawk Recorder Society.**

---

We are grateful to the many instrumentalists who volunteer to help lead worship with their musical talents: **Darcy Brem, Walt Cogswell, Greg Comparetta, Janith Mason, Tom and Tricia McCrossan, Vicki Schlierer, Pastor Garret Szantner, and Mark Watson.**

And—to the dedicated Tech team members who make sure that it happens each and every Sunday! **Andrew Comparetta, Mike Hall, Ken Klapp, Janith Mason, Gail Mihalak, Lexi Pris, Neil Satterly, Clinton Smith, Alex Urdanoff, Mark Watson, and Amanda Wilber.**



---

## Learn more about Lynnwood's Missions

Camp Fowler

[www.campfowler.org](http://www.campfowler.org)

Bethesda House

[www.bethesdahouseschenectady.org](http://www.bethesdahouseschenectady.org)

City Mission of Schenectady

[www.citymission.com](http://www.citymission.com)

Community Caregivers

[www.communitycaregivers.org](http://www.communitycaregivers.org)

Guilderland Food Pantry

[www.guilderlandfoodpantry.com](http://www.guilderlandfoodpantry.com)

Schenectady Community Ministries (SiCM)

[www.sicm.us](http://www.sicm.us)

Al Amana Centre Oman

[www.alamanacentre.org](http://www.alamanacentre.org)

India

see bulletin board or Mission team

member

Mescalero Reformed Church

[www.rca.org/global-mission/missionaries/mescalero-reformed-church](http://www.rca.org/global-mission/missionaries/mescalero-reformed-church)

Grace Covenant Ministries

[www.rca.org/global-mission/missionaries/grace-covenant-ministries](http://www.rca.org/global-mission/missionaries/grace-covenant-ministries)

RCA Global Mission

[www.rca.org/global-mission](http://www.rca.org/global-mission)



**For the latest in Mission  
check out the bulletin board!**

# January Memories



## Youth Fellowship

*Meal Prep to support Schenectady Street Soldiers' weekly food distribution*



*Thank you Amy Chevalier, Nick Comparetta,  
Jerry Oliver, Ellen Robbiano, Pastor Garret Szantner,  
and Daniel Welch*

# LYNNWOOD REFORMED CHURCH

3714 Carman Rd, Schenectady 12303

## DINNER'S ON US!

ZITI - MEATBALLS - SALAD - COMMUNITY

Join us Saturday, Feb. 25

from 4-6pm for a free meal!

*Open to anyone and is a way for people to gather and connect around a table with good food.*

Let us know you are coming if you can!

Call 518-356-4327 or go to [lynnwoodreformed.org](http://lynnwoodreformed.org).



*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.*

## BIRTHDAYS

# February 2023

Be sure to check the calendar on [www.lynnwoodreformed.org](http://www.lynnwoodreformed.org)  
for the most recent listings.

## February

- 1 Carole DeForest  
Hugh Moore
- 3 Mark Watson
- 5 Marion Robinson  
Rosemarie Klapp
- 7 Marie Lussi
- 8 Tom Schardt
- 10 Lisa Kennedy
- 13 Kendall Gilbert
- 21 Evelyn Rinella
- 22 Lexi Pris  
Pam Rost

## March

- 4 Alice Fidler  
Anna May Morrison
- 5 Janith Mason
- 9 Ken Klapp
- 10 Larry Bopp
- 12 Jean Anderson  
Julie Ader  
Amanda Wilber
- 17 Debbie Perretta
- 18 Wayne Blessing  
Ric Klug
- 19 Neil Satterly
- 22 Peter Palma  
Bill Ports
- 27 Bill Mac Gregor  
Carol Thompson
- 28 Peg Kniskern
- 29 Suzy Pris  
Jim Van de Wal
- 30 Peggy Raymond
- 31 Ellen DeCarr  
Lou Smith

**Feb 1 Wed** Stretching with Friends 6:00  
Worship team 6:30

**Feb 2 Thu** In His Presence 9:30  
<Scouts 5011> 6:00  
Band 6:30

**Feb 3 Fri** <Pine Bush Players>4:00

**Feb 4 Sat** <Maria's Prayer>

---

**Feb 5 Sun** **Communion**  
Fellowship team 11:15  
Youth Fellowship 5:30

**Feb 6 Mon** <Scouts 5011> 6:00  
Mission team 6:30

**Feb 7 Tue** Faith Formation 4:30  
<Scouts 5048> 6:00  
Building & Property 6:00

**Feb 8 Wed** Stretching with Friends 6:00

**Feb 9 Thu** In His Presence 9:30  
<Scouts 5005>6:00  
Band 6:30

**Feb 10 Fri** <Pine Bush Players> 4:00

**Feb 11 Sat** <Maria's Prayer>

---

**Feb 12 Sun** Street Soldiers Meal Prep  
Youth Fellowship 5:30

**Feb 14 Tue** *Valentine's Day*  
Prayer Shawl - noon  
<Scouts 5048> 6:00

**Feb 15 Wed** Stretching w/Friends 6:00

**Feb 16 Thu** **Reports to Consistory Due**  
In His Presence 9:30  
Band 6:30

**Feb 17 Fri** <Pine Bush Players> 4:00

**Feb 18 Sat** <Maria's Prayer>

---

**Feb 19 Sun** Youth Helping Hands  
Hudson Mohawk Recorder 2:00  
Youth Fellowship 5:30

**Feb 20 Mon** *Presidents Day - office closed*  
**Newsletter deadline**

**Feb 21 Tue** Consistory  
<Scouts 5048> 6:00

**Feb 22 Wed** **ASH WEDNESDAY**

**Feb 23 Thu** In His Presence 9:30  
Band 6:30

**Feb 24 Fri** <Pine Bush Players> 4:00

**Feb 25 Sat** <Maria's Prayer>  
<But Nothing>2:00  
**Dinner's On Us 4:00**

---

**Feb 28 Tue** <Scouts 5048> 6:00

---

### Publication Deadlines

Articles for the *Life of Lynnwood*  
are due on the  
**20th of each month**

### 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!



### Pastor:

Garret Szantner

### Director of Music:

Jean La Crosse

### Office Manager:

Janith W. Mason

---

(518) 356-4327

[lynnwoodreformed.org](http://lynnwoodreformed.org)  
[office@lynnwoodreformed.org](mailto:office@lynnwoodreformed.org)

**Daily Bible Readings**

- Sunday: Exodus 1-4
- Monday: Exodus 5-7
- Tuesday: Exodus 8-10
- Wednesday: Exodus 11-13
- Thursday: Exodus 14-17
- Friday: Exodus 18-20
- Saturday: Psalms 13-15

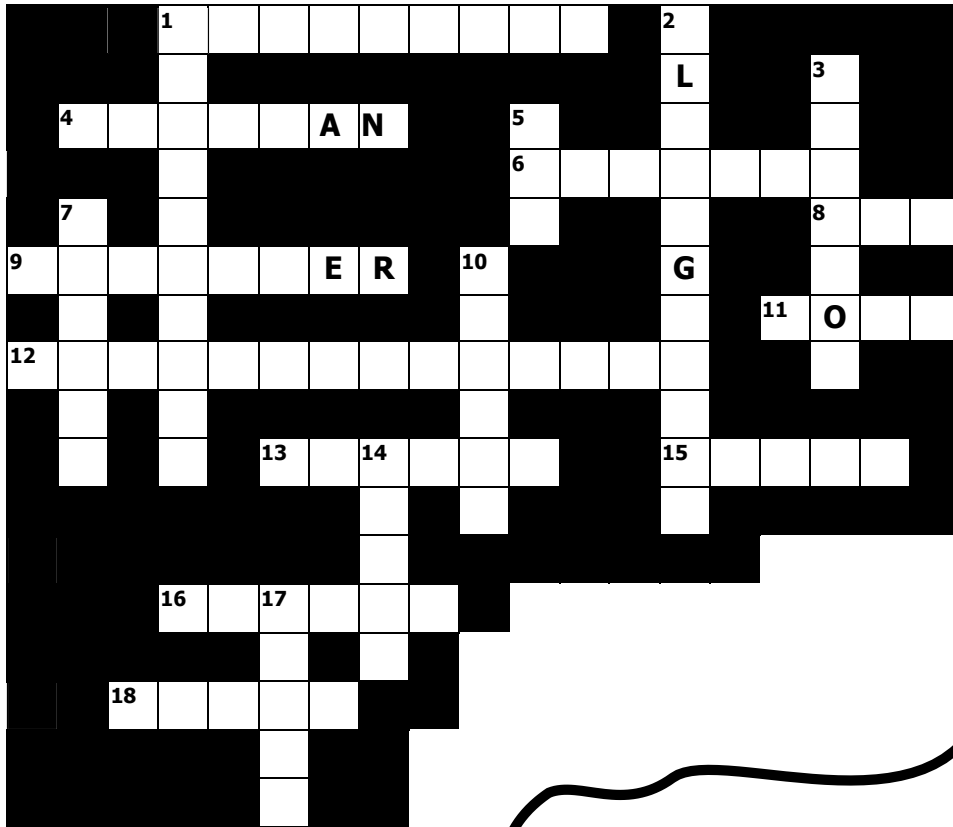
*Verse to Remember*

*You shall have no other gods before me.*

—Exodus 20:3

# CROSSWORD CLEANING!

The theme of this puzzle is cleaning items.


**CLUES**

- 1 Across: Type of soap
- 1 Down: Apparatus to clean dishes
- 2. Vigorous physical effort
- 3. Used when washing hair
- 4. Used to hold debris
- 5. An old or torn cloth
- 6. Added to water to form cleaning solution
- 7. To whiten
- 8. Can be wet or dry
- 9. A cleaning powder
- 10. Pail
- 11. A water tube
- 12. Used to clean clothes
- 13. Used to remove dirt on knick-knacks
- 14. To vigorously rub
- 15. To brush away
- 16. Used to clean carpets
- 17. Fabric
- 18. Used to sweep

**ANSWERS:**

- 1. Across — detergent;
- 1. Down — dishwasher;
- 2. elbow grease;
- 3. shampoo;
- 4. dustpan;
- 5. rag;
- 6. ammonia;
- 7. bleach;
- 8. mop;
- 9. cleanser;
- 10. bucket;
- 11. hose;
- 12. washing machine;
- 13. duster;
- 14. scrub;
- 15. sweep;
- 16. vacuum;
- 17. cloth;
- 18. broom.



February 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				



**Lynnwood Reformed Church  
Director of Faith Formation  
Position Description**



## **Position Vision and Overview**

The Director of Faith Formation supports the ministry of Lynnwood Reformed Church through leadership and facilitation of faith formation. *The Director of Faith Formation gives focused attention to faith formation at Lynnwood by chairing the Faith Formation Team and leading them to carry out their mission and vision for people of all ages, with specific attention to youth.*

The Director of Faith Formation is a part time, approximately 20 hours per week position (some of which are on the weekend) and is supervised and supported by Lynnwood's Minister of Word and Sacrament and consistory representative to the Faith Formation Team. Compensation for this position is \$20-\$25/hr, based on experience. If you are interested please email resume and cover letter to [personnel@lynnwoodreformed.org](mailto:personnel@lynnwoodreformed.org).

## **Job Responsibilities:**

### **Faith Formation Team**

- Chairs the team
- Prepares for meetings by creating an agenda and making sure minutes are accurately taken and sent to the Office Manager to be put in the Consistory packet

### **LRC Youth**

- Maps out schedule for the ministry year and summer
- Communicates with parents about events, forms, etc.
- Plans and leads youth groups
- Plans and leads youth retreat
- Coordinates any meals made at youth group
- Forms relationships with parents and youth that foster belonging
- Inquires if youth would like to participate in the process of Profession of Faith

### **Community Youth Group**

- Connects with the Altamont Reformed Church youth representative (currently Pastor Matthew) to coordinate Youth Group times, schedule, and ideas.
- Is responsible for planning and leading the Community Youth Group.

### **Safe Sanctuary Team**

- Collects forms yearly from parents
- Helps with yearly training

### **Sunday School**

- Organizes Sunday School yearly schedule and curriculum for Explorations (K-5th grade) and Discipleship (6th-12th grade)
- Coordinates teachers and substitutes
- Coordinates Christmas Pageant and Celebration Sunday
- Assists in leading Profession of Faith Class

### **Small Groups Ministry**

- Works in cohort with the Faith Formation Team and Pastor to coordinate a small group ministry for the church community.

### **Worship**

- Helps lead parts of the liturgy as gifts and ability allow; especially with youth and children.

### **Social Media**

- Works with the Pastor and Office Manager to maintain the church's social media accounts.

**Office Manager / Lynnwood Reformed Church/ Guilderland, NY**  
**Full Time or Part Time / \$20.00 per hour / working hours \***



**Description**

Lynnwood Reformed Church is seeking a qualified candidate to coordinate multiple office functions in support of pastoral work, church committees and teams, congregants, and outside groups involved in the life of the church. The Office Manager has knowledge of and is familiar with how churches conduct business and perform services of worship. They have direct contact with members, leaders, other staff, and daily contact with the pastor to whom they report directly. They demonstrate professional conduct, sensitivity and discretion in communications and interactions as they reflect heavily on the reputation and public image of the church.

**Major Responsibilities**

Performs multiple communications tasks including primary responsibility for creation of monthly newsletters, Sunday bulletins, visual media for worship, social media postings, website postings, printed reports.

- Works with staff and church member volunteers from Teams/Committees within the church for special reports, updates, publishing the Annual Church Directory, maintaining certain financial records including receiving invoices and reimbursement requests, review for accuracy and forward to offsite bookkeeping service.
- Maintains the church calendar.
- Manages the use of the property and interior space (facility) for various groups, member events and community events.
- Oversees the filing system and records management to ensure both accessibility and security backups to electronic files and records.
- Administrative Assistant for the pastor. Also, assist church staff and church leadership members as needed.
- Provides coordination and reminders to all people participating in worship, with printed readings, announcements, etc.
- Office functions – receives calls and mail and routes correspondence to intended parties. Orders church supplies for office, custodian, and committees/teams needing church-purchased goods and services.

**Requisite Skills**

- General knowledge of Christian faith and church administration
- Excellent organizational skills
- Excellent communication skills (spoken and written), can write clearly with good grammar and spelling. Excellent phone etiquette.
- Computer proficiency needed, MS Word, MS Publisher, and Microsoft Office/Excel tools essential. Knowledge of Breeze and MediaShout software is a plus.
- Social media skills with Facebook and Instagram.
- Knowledgeable with office copier, phones, basic networking
- High School graduate with two years of either college or business school training
- Five years secretarial or managerial experience is desirable.

Lynnwood Reformed Church is a growing and active congregation serving the Guilderland community. Our church life extends well beyond our doors with live streamed worship services, Brooks' Chicken barbecues, mission work for Schenectady City Mission, Schenectady Street Soldiers, Guilderland Food Pantry, Community Caregivers, Bethesda House, Camp Fowler, and many others. We will warmly and enthusiastically welcome a new Office Manager to the Lynnwood family to be involved in all we do.

\* Position hours are 25-35 per week depending on the needs of the current week.

**Resumes and cover letters should be directed to Rev. Garret Szantner, Lynnwood Reformed Church,**  
**[pastorgarret@lynnwoodreformed.org](mailto:pastorgarret@lynnwoodreformed.org) 3714 Carman Road, Schenectady, NY 12303-5422**