



The Pastor's Notebook from the desk of Pastor Garret

There is a very good reason the writers of the Hebrew Scriptures, our Old Testament, placed Psalm 1 at the very beginning (yes, smarty pants, other than it being labeled Psalm 1). Psalm 1 is a preamble or prelude for the life of faith and a picture of what the writer hopes the reader will learn from studying God's word and the rest of the psalms.



If you are unfamiliar with Psalm 1, here it is:

*Happy are those
who do not follow the advice of the wicked
or take the path that sinners tread
or sit in the seat of scoffers,
but their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law they meditate day and night.*

*They are like trees
planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.*

*The wicked are not so
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous,
for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.*

Hebrew wisdom literature is famous for talking about different paths in life. One that is rich, blessed, fulfilling, and good because it is the path of wisdom. The other is the path of destruction, wickedness, unhappiness, and death because it is the path of foolishness.

The thing that makes someone wise is their attention to God's word. God's word is like a tree that is planted by water

so it can drink and live. God's word is like the waters of life in that it not only sustains life, but it produces fruit, which gives life to other living things. And even when storms come and wind blows, the tree stands strong and leaves do not blow away because the tree is healthy and living.

The psalms open with this picture that is meant to be an example for our lives. It is an encouragement to become familiar with God's word and to drink it in like water on a hot day.

The thing is that sometimes it doesn't feel like reading a passage of scripture has done much. That is because there is no scientific or magic formula to becoming wise. It isn't as if we read ten passages and all the sudden we are 10x more wise. It takes intentional investment of time to become familiar with the story's of scripture; to become familiar with the God we meet in those stories; and to learn from faithful people before us about the winding road of faith.

Perhaps the encouragement at the beginning of this year is to find some intentional way to engage with scripture. Maybe that means reading one psalm a day. Or reading one story about Jesus per week. Or memorizing a favorite passage/verse.

Engagement with scripture may not lead to immediate returns in wisdom; however, each time we pick up the good book it is one more time when we drink deeply from that life giving stream. A stream that will nourish us, strengthen us, and steady us on the journey of faith.

One in Christ,
Pastor Garret

Thank
you ❤️



I would like to take a moment to recognize the continued generosity of you and the whole Lynnwood congregation.

*Thank you so much for the incredible financial gift that you gave to me and the staff at year end. It surely was an incredible blessing. I hope to show my gratitude through continually serving and walking alongside you throughout this ministry year!
Again, thank you!*

UPDATES FROM CONSISTORY

This past month at Consistory ...

- The Consistory spoke about the Appreciative Inquiry Design Team and voted on a configuration of people for the team. The team members are: Jane Domaracki, Carol Lynch, Mike Hall, Sandy Lundstedt, Lou Smith, Lexi Pris, and Shannon Comparetta.
- Recognized the fact that our office manager, Janith Mason, is going to retire in early March. Janith has done an amazing job throughout the years she has been at Lynnwood and it will be very difficult to replace her.
- We had a prolonged discussion about how to go about hiring a new Office Manager. After a long discussion we decided that we are open to hiring a person on a part time or full time basis. The advertisement for the position will be posted on the webpage and indeed.com, and talked about in services in order to garner candidates for the position.
- Consistory elected the following members December 20, 2022:
Deacons: Nancy LaPietro (1-year term), Andy Pris (3-year term), Amanda Wilber (1-year term);
Elders: Daniele Rueckert (3-year term) and Neil Satterly (3-year term). Their ordination and/or installation is scheduled for January 15. Our highest appreciation to outgoing elders Marian Borgia and Jane Davis.

Christmas Eve attendance:

2021: 71

2022: 127

Join us in Worship! Sundays at 9:45

You can join us on your preferred channel: [YouTube](#) or [Facebook](#).
Feel free to use the time before, during, and after the service to connect
with others in the chat box!

(But it's better in person!)

Giving continues in January with the GIVING TREE

The "GIVING" Tree in the narthex is laden with gloves, hats, mittens, scarves, (for children *and* adults), heavy socks for adults, and other items for **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. Coordinator, Betsy Hollander, would be pleased to answer any questions.

[Lynnwood Church Directory](#)

A new directory of Lynnwood's active members and adherents is planned to be available in February. It will include names, (children & adult), addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses of those active in the life of Lynnwood. Please 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, 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.

[Your 2022 annual giving statement](#) will be emailed to you this month. Please contact the office if you need a printed statement mailed to you.

Did you know that you can privately access your membership account at your convenience at any time throughout the year to obtain your giving history and to verify contact information? Just go to <https://lynnwood.breezechms.com/> to log in or create your account.

✓ **Reports to
Consistory
due January 12**

✓ **Annual Reports
due January 18**

✓ **Newsletter items
due January 20**

Dear Lynnwood, **THANK YOU!**



Just wanted to thank each of you for your continued support. 2022 was a tough year economically yet your members gave more food donations than ever before, topping 2021. We continue to serve more families than ever and we couldn't do it without your support, so thank you!!

That being said, here are a few items we continue to run short of if you could pass along:

- ketchup
- chicken noodle soup
- snack crackers (boxes of Wheat Thins, Triscuits, etc.)
- tomato products (sauce, diced and paste)

Thanks again!

Mac, (John McDonnell, Executive Director of the Guilderland Food Pantry)



Bethesda House - Warm Clothing Drive

Thank you Lynnwood, for a very successful warm clothing for Bethesda House! We just completed another VERY successful warm clothing and coat drive in November and the Mission team would like to thank all of you who took the time to donate.

In all, we donated over 65 warm weather coats/jackets coupled with 12+ bags full of warm clothing items for the cold winter months. Your generous offerings are greatly appreciated by Bethesda House and the Mission Team. All these items were put to immediate use with their clients.

Thank you all for your generosity and caring. If you still have items that you'd like to donate, contact Tom Schardt of the Mission team and he can arrange to pick those up from you. (thomasjschardt@gmail.com)



Many, many thanks to all the Lynnwood angels who made the **Project Angel Tree** possible again this year! A full report will be in the February newsletter?

Most sincerely, Kathy Ader

Thank you for the generous gift you have given me. Only with people who volunteer and give service to other, especially here at Lynnwood Reformed Church, are we able to bring such meaningful services to our members, guests and the needs of the community. Your willingness to give your gifts and abilities is the reason we are able to strengthen the ministries and mission of this church.

I wish you a blessed Christmas and Joy in the New Year. It is a wonderful pleasure to serve you as Director of Church Music.

With grateful appreciation,
Jean La Crosse

I am very grateful for the appreciation extended to me during the Christmas season - and yearlong. Your kind words, cards, cookies, gifts, and financial support have been a blessing to me. May the New Year bring comfort to us, knowing that in times of uncertainty and upheaval, that God is certain, and God is good. Janith Mason



Again this year we had a tremendous response from you for our Gift Giving Sunday. Our partners at City Mission were delighted with the gifts for their "Christmas Store", where parents have signed up ahead if time, and come and choose a toy or two for each if their children. It is truly a wonderful community service that we have been a part if it for several years. Our count was 115 gifts and we guesstimate a value of \$2,000. Thank you so much and have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. Peg Kniskern for Mission Team

December Memories



Christmas Pageant December 18, 2022



First Annual *Christmaspalooza!* December 18, 2022

Lynnwood Reformed Church
3714 Carman rd, Schenectady, NY 12303

DINNER'S ON US

Ziti - Meatballs - Salad - Community

Join us Saturday, Feb. 25th from 4-6pm for a free meal. The meal is 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 by calling us (518-356-4327) or going to lynnwoodreformed.org.

We're saving you a seat!



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

JANUARY 2023

January

- 1 Charlotte Amigo
John Watson
- 6 Karsen Rittner
- 10 Walt Jones
Blanche Matheson
Nancy Moore
- 20 Anthony Colloton
- 31 Grace Lombardo

February

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

Be sure to check the calendar on www.lynnwoodreformed.org
for the most recent listings.

Jan 1 Sun	Communion Street Soldiers Meal Prep	Jan 18 Wed	Annual reports due Stretching 21th Friends 6:00
Jan 3 Tue	Faith Formation 4:30 Building & Property 6:00 Stewardship 6:30 <Scouts 5048 6:00>	Jan 19 Thu	In His Presence 89:30 Band 6:30 <Scouts 5011 6:00>
Jan 4 Wed	Stretching with Friends 6:00	Jan 20 Fri	Newsletter items due Boiler Inspection <Pine Bush Players 4:00>
Jan 5 Thu	Frank Amigo Funeral 10:00 Band 6:30	Jan 21 Sat	<Maria's Prayer> <Taiwanese AA Dinner 4:30>
Jan 8 Sun	Youth Taco dinner & games	Jan 22 Sun	Street Soldiers Meal Prep Youth Helping Hands Hudson Mohawk Rec. 2:00
Jan 9 Mon	Mission team 6:30	Jan 23 Mon	Red Cross Blood Drive 1-7
Jan 10 Tue	Prayer Shawl - noon <Scouts 5048 6:00>	Jan 24 Tue	Prayer Shawl - noon <Scouts 5048 6:00>
Jan 11 Wed	Guilderland Food Pantry 8:00 Stretching with Friends 5:45 Worship team 6:30	Jan 25 Wed	Stretching with Friends 6:00
Jan 12 Thu	Reports to Consistory due In His Presence 9:30 Band 6:30 <Scouts 5011 6:00>	Jan 26 Thu	In His Presence 9:30 Band 6:30 <Scouts 5005 6:30>
Jan 13 Fri	<Pine Bush Players 4:00>J	Jan 27 Fri	<Pine Bush Players 4:00>
Jan 14 Sat	<Maria's Prayer>	Jan 28 Sat	<Maria's Prayer>
Jan 15 Sun	Youth Ice Skating	Jan 29 Sun	Youth Helping Hands with Street Soldiers 11:30
Jan 16 Mon	MLK Day - Office Closed	Jan 31 Tue	<Scouts 5048 6:00>
Jan 17 Tue	Consistory <Scouts 5048 6:00>		

2023 Consistory

Deacons

Shannon Comparetta
Nancy LaPietro
Kathy Mix
Andy Pris*
Amanda Wilber*

Elders

Mary Chew
Randy Mix
Daniele Rueckert *
Suzanne Wilber
Neil Satterly*

* to be ordained and/or installed January 15

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
office@lynnwoodreformed.org

**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.

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.

**Lynnwood Reformed Church
Office Manager
Position Description**



The Office Manager is responsible to the Pastor for administering all office and communication aspects of the Church. The Office Manager maintains good working relationships with all staff, committees/teams and members to meet the objectives of the Mission and Vision Statements of Lynnwood Reformed Church. The Office Manager is directly supervised by the Minister. Position has direct contact with the general public, children, and staff. Annually participate in Safe Sanctuary training, reference and background check.

We are looking to hire on either a part time or full time basis, depending on the qualifications and skill set of the candidate. If you have questions or want to send along materials please email me, Pastor Garret (pastorgarret@lynnwoodreformed.org) or Nancy LaPietro (nancy.lapietro@gmail.com).

Minimum Skills Required:

- Knowledge of and appreciation for the Christian faith and local church administration
- High School Graduate: two years of college, business school or office experience desirable
- Excellent composition and verbal skills, grammar, spelling and clarity of presentation
- Typing skills (65 WPM desirable)
- Experience with Windows, Breeze, Microsoft Office, Goggle, Social Media and Media Shout desirable
- Experience with office equipment (copier, fax, digital duplicator and networking of same)
- Courteous and diplomatic skills
- Minimum of five (5) years of secretarial or managerial skills desirable
- Excellent organizational skills

**Lynnwood Reformed Church
Worship Ministry Intern
Part-time Job Description**



Job Summary:

Lynnwood Reformed Church is seeking an intern to assist our Director of Music, musicians, and Tech team in preparing and executing weekly worship services.

Responsibilities:

- Model a Christian attitude of welcome and concern, fostering supportive and caring relationships among choir members, members of the congregation and other participants in the music ministry program
- Appreciation of Contemporary and Traditional Christian music for Blended Worship
- Read music and have previous experience in vocal, keyboard and/or other instrumental training
- Knowledge of musical key signatures and chord charts
- Ability to assist in leading rehearsals and participate in Worship Services
- Must be able to work, consult and communicate well with a music and production team including Pastor, Director of Music, volunteer musicians, and technical support individuals.
- Assess the acoustics of the Worship area, and assemble and operate the necessary equipment for services.

Working Relationships:

- Responsible to the Pastor and Director of Music
- Works closely with the Worship Band and Tech Team

Time Requirement:

- 5-6 hours per week
- Sunday availability, as well as availability on a weeknight

Compensation: \$20-25 based on experience

Other Requirements:

- Candidates for the position must comply with all relevant policies as outlined in the staff handbook.