

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

There were more than a few occasions when Janith Mason, our Office Manager, saved my butt.

The first time was very early on. I wrote a newsletter from Holland, Michigan just a month before I started the job. In that article I wrote about a sermon series on the Apostles' Creed in which I spelled "holy catholic Church" with a capital 'C' catholic rather than with a lower case 'c'. (To be honest I still am a little fuzzy on when to capitalize and not to capitalize the term).

Janith emailed me and wrote something to the effect of, "Hey, I am just checking in about the word 'catholic', I believe in this instance it is not supposed to be capitalized."

Sometimes it is good to have a good editor.

I learned that again shortly into my time at Lynnwood when I misstated that there are six "I Am" statements that Jesus makes in John's gospel. "Garret, I don't mean to be like this, but I believe there are seven, not six, "I Am" statements."

Beyond those two things, I have finally learned how to properly use "I" and "Me" in a sentence.

And I must also admit that after eight years of being at Lynnwood I still don't have as good an appreciation for music and culture from before 1980. It wasn't without a great effort from Janith to try and educate me on names of songs and actors I had never heard before.

In all seriousness, these are merely lighthearted examples in comparison to the work that Janith has done over the past eight years for me personally, and in the past nine years at Lynnwood. She thought of ways that things could run smoother, she remembered events and

items that were upcoming but not mentioned, she connected a lot of dots, and she was always searching for ways to improve how we did things.

I stepped into being a Pastor at 25 and was very green. A lot of people in the congregation helped support me, guide me, and catch a few mistakes in order to help me out, but no more than Janith. For that I am truly grateful to her.



**Church Secretaries — God's  
Guardians of the Universe**

This month marks her retirement from Lynnwood. Lynnwood is both her congregational home and has also been a place where she worked with great stewardship for the church for the past nine years. The Consistory is working on planning an appropriate 'thank you' for her, but I encourage you to say 'thank you' as well. Perhaps it is writing a card, or connecting with her about a cherished memory, or perhaps getting her peanut butter cups from Candy Kraft! (one of her favorites).

Let us find ways to celebrate the work she has done over the past few years. And yet, let us also be mindful that churches are weird places. While Janith is retiring from her role as Office Manager she will be figuring out how to adjust to life at Lynnwood in a different capacity. I invite you to pray for her as she makes that transition. I invite prayer for us to find the next person. And I also ask you to pray that God might lead Janith and us into a future that is better than we could imagine.

Pastor Garret

# UPDATES FROM CONSISTORY

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

- We approved the proposed 2023 budget as presented by the Stewardship Team and our Treasurer, Debbie Perretta. We wish to thank Debbie for all the work that she put in to the budget this year. We also thank the ministry teams that helped provide information. And we thank our community that was so generous over the past year.
- We decided upon Google Drive as the cloud based database for storing our important documents.
- We acknowledged the need to support the Design Team in their work to craft goals for our congregation.
- We received team reports from each ministry teams and coordinated items as needed.
- We spoke about doing something special for Janith Mason, our Office Manager, as she ends her time of employment at Lynnwood.

### Deacons

Shannon Comparetta  
Nancy LaPietro  
Kathy Mix  
Andy Pris  
Amanda Wilber

### Elders

Mary Chew  
Randy Mix  
Daniele Rueckert  
Suzanne Wilber  
Neil Satterly

## Appeal for Audio Improvements

Dear Friends,

As most of you know, roughly three years ago your church responded to the challenges of the COVID pandemic separation with a rudimentary livestream for worship services. As the pandemic persisted we invested in live streaming technology for the long term, recognizing that there were other reasons to offer a regular livestream to help people stay connected in worship who otherwise would not be able. The efforts and investments have paid off and are considered successful.

At the start, we focused on the audio-visual aspects of the live stream and skipped over another challenge that has been with us for much longer but less urgent, that being the in-house sound system. Musical instruments are now a regular part of Sunday worship with multiple microphones in various locations which have not been properly integrated. For better than 15 years, we have made small purchases of speakers, feedback reduction devices, mixers, microphones, etc. to help us move forward but inherent acoustical problems of the sanctuary require a comprehensive solution.

We have identified newer technology through consulting that we believe will address the problems of echo, feedback, and "dead spots" of the sanctuary. A sound amplification system under consideration was demonstrated to a small group of LRC members on January 24. The system shown, plus peripheral devices needed, sound panel materials and full integration is estimated at roughly \$20K. We are fortunate to have a friend of the church who sells to us at dealer cost and provides free technical services for integration. However, there is no budget item specific for this initiative.

If you would like to be part of making audio improvements happen, please consider making a donation. Everything contributed will help get us closer. Please note "AUDIO" on your check to make sure it goes to the right place.

The full details are too many for the newsletter. If you have questions about the initiative please call me at 518-461-1966 to get more information.

Thank you!

Neil Satterly

# Learn more about Lent and Easter

**What is Lent?** The word Lent is derived from the Anglo-Saxon word for springtime, which literally translates in modern English to “the lengthening of the days.” In the early church, the Lenten period was used as a time for preparing new converts for Baptism on Easter Sunday. Today it is a time for preparation, reflection, growth, and change. The liturgical color for Lent is purple, a solemn color, a color for royalty and repentance. The liturgical color for Easter Sunday and the Sundays between Easter and Pentecost is white, signifying purity.

**When is Lent?** The liturgical season of Lent begins with the solemn observance of Ash Wednesday and continues for six weeks, culminating with the church’s joyous celebration of Easter.

**What is Holy Week?** Holy Week is the last week of Lent. During this week, Christians remember important events in the last days of Jesus’s life, his death on the cross, and his resurrection from the dead.

**Ash Wednesday** is the official beginning of the Lenten season. It is a day of prayer and public confession of sins. In some churches the sign of the cross is made with ashes on the foreheads of believers. The early Israelites took the ashes from burnt offerings, mixed them with water, and sprinkled them over unclean persons (sinners) and their belongings (Numbers 19:17-18). In the third century, the church began the custom of burning the branches used on Palm Sunday; saving the ashes and marking sinners, such as robbers and murderers with these ashes. Out of sympathy, family and friends of these 'marked' persons began using the ashes also. **This year we celebrated Ash Wednesday February 22.**

**Palm or Passion Sunday** is a day of change from the joyful celebration of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem to the solemn knowledge of what lies ahead for him in the coming week. The custom of waving olive twigs in the procession began in the fourth century. It was not until about 400 years later that palm branches were first used, and they continue to be used today. **This year Palm Sunday is celebrated on April 2.**

**Maundy Thursday** This day commemorates Jesus’s last supper with his disciples. During that meal in the upper room, Jesus washed his disciples’ feet and gave them a new commandment: “Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another” (John 13:34). The word “Maundy” comes from the Latin *mandatum*, meaning “command.”

In commemoration of the Last Supper, Christians often partake in a simple meal of bread and wine—commonly known as the Lord’s Supper or Communion—during Maundy Thursday worship services. **This year we will be celebrating this communion service April 6 at Altamont Reformed Church.**

**What is the meaning of the Last Supper?** “Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’ And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, ‘This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.’” –Luke 22:19–20

In the words that accompany the breaking of the bread and the pouring of the cup, Jesus makes it clear that his sacrifice and death is for our redemption. As he invited his disciples to partake in the Last Supper, he invites us also to a meal of faith shared among believers. By eating and drinking the Lord’s Supper together, we are reminded that Jesus wants us to love each other and to forgive each other. This is the command represented in the word “Maundy.”

Through Jesus’s charge to “do this in remembrance of me,” the Last Supper became the inaugural Lord’s Supper. In this meal, also known as Communion, Reformed theology holds to the belief that the bread and wine are not changed into the actual body and blood of Christ. Rather, these elements are a reminder and promise of God’s love for us.

The simple meal is also a symbolic teaching that Jesus’s crucified body and shed blood spiritually feed us. Through the working of the Holy Spirit, as we share this meal, we share in the death and resurrection of Christ. This means that we accept with a believing heart that his body was offered for us and his blood was shed for us, granting us forgiveness and new life.

As we remember the depth of Jesus’s suffering for us, the meal takes on a sadness and somberness. Yet, we remember that Jesus rose from the dead and he will come again. Thus, this is a meal to be celebrated and laced with joy.

**Good Friday** was probably first called God's Friday. On this day we remember Christ's suffering and death on the cross. **This year Good Friday is April 7 .**

**Easter** is celebration of Christ’s resurrection from the dead. and the seven weeks following is the oldest, celebrated liturgical season of the church year. The season of Easter ends with the Day of Pentecost, fifty days after Easter. **This year Easter is celebrated April 9.**

## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

During Lent the Prayer Shawl Ministry would like to honor all those who have contributed shawls to bless others. Some of these shawls will be displayed on pews during worship services. Please touch them and say a prayer for the person who will receive them. If you are going through a challenging time or know someone who is, please take a shawl of your choice & the prayer and card accompanying it after the service.

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## GUILDERLAND FOOD PANTRY – a note from John 'Mac' McDonnell

As we begin to think about Easter we will have specific needs for the extra meal we provide clients. Below are the items most needed:

- Scalloped Potatoes (box)
- Jiffy Muffin Mix (box)
- Gravy (cans)
- Canned Fruit (any)

Thanks for your continued support, Mac

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## Got Tools?

Many repairs are conducted on a regular basis around our church building, but we're a little short on the necessary hand tools to complete the tasks. If you happen to have an extra adjustable wrench, hacksaw, vice-grips or other common hand tool that you could part with, please consider donating it to the church. It would help us to make quick repairs without having to go fetch our own tools. Tools may be left with Mark Watson or Walt Cogswell, or dropped off in the office.

Thanks, from the Building and Property Team

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## Art with Schardt!

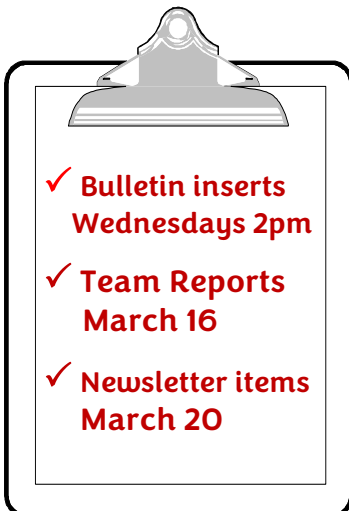
Come have fun and create Easter cards, or any card you want!  
I have supplies, but you can bring your own.  
No experience necessary!

**Wednesday, March 29**

**1-3 pm in Fellowship Center**

Email Patty Schardt [pdsrd7@gmail.com](mailto:pdsrd7@gmail.com) to sign up!

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## EASTER LILIES

**Lily order envelopes are in the narthex.**

Please return the envelope to the church office  
by Palm Sunday, April 2.

Let us know on the envelope if you would like it placed  
in memory or honor of someone.

The cost is \$12 (cash or checks made out to LRC).  
Please plan on picking up your lily after the Easter service.



# Music Notes

## A Song for the Lenten Season



### Ashes to Ashes

Daniel Laurent Schutte, Composer

Ashes to ashes, from dust unto dust  
The cross on our forehead  
Your promise, O God  
Ready us to follow the way of your Son  
To rise from these ashes  
Redeemed in the fire of your love

Sound the trumpet in Zion  
Announce from the Lord  
That the day of God's favor  
Is ever close at hand

Rend your hearts, not your garments  
Return to the Lord  
Who delights when we offer  
A truly humble heart

We have seen in the heavens  
And held in our arms  
What the hand of our Maker  
Can fashion out of dust  
Let us fast from unkindness

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Daniel Laurent Schutte, a contemporary Christian songwriter, was born in Neenah, Wisconsin on December 28, 1947. His best known composition is the hymn "Here I Am, Lord", also known as "I, the Lord of Sea and Sky", was written in 1981. Numerous Christian artists, including Amy Grant and John Michael Talbot, have recorded his music. Additionally, his music has found its way into television and movie soundtracks such as "Everybody Loves Raymond". Daniel's website, listed below, has some wonderful information about the composer and his journey of love, education and accomplishments through music. I know you would enjoy reading from his words far more than I could describe.

<https://www.danschuttemusic.com/about/>

May you be blessed this Season of Lent,  
Jean La Crosse

**SAVE THE DATE! ✦ SUNDAY APRIL 16, 4:00 PM ✦ SAVE THE DATE!**

**Jubilate Chorus and Orchestra  
return for their Twentieth and Final Concert**

*Dianna Bopp, Larry Bopp, and Susan VanDerWende sing with this group*

**"GOD IS LOVE"**

The Jubilate Chorus and orchestra will present its 20th and final concert under the direction of Dr. Ralph C. Schultz at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 85 Elm Avenue, Delmar NY on Sunday, April 16, 4:00 PM.

The concert is free, but it is helpful to reserve seating by calling the Bethlehem Lutheran Church office 518-439-4328.



# 2023 Lynnwood Talent Show

Saturday May 6, 7:00 pm  
Dinner 6:00 pm

Performers – see sign up sheet by coatroom  
Questions? See Mark Watson

## February Memories

*“Please excuse our appearance as we continue to improve our facility.”*

*from your Building and Property Team*



**Dinner's On Us!**

# BIRTHDAYS

# March 2023

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

## 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

- 1 Wed** Stretching w/Friends 6:00  
Worship team 6:30  
Choir 7:30
- 2 Thu** In His Presence 9:30  
Band 6:30
- 3 Fri** <Pine Bush Players>4:00
- 4 Sat** <Maria's Prayer>

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- 5 Sun** **Communion**  
Suburban Sounds 4:00  
Youth Fellowship 5:30
- 6 Mon** Lent Small Group 10:00  
Fellowship Team 5:00  
Mission team 6:30
- 7 Tue** Faith Formation 4:30  
<Scouts 5048> 6:00  
Building & Property 6:00
- 8 Wed** Stretching with Friends 6:00  
Choir 7:30
- 9 Thu** In His Presence 9:30  
<Scouts 5011>6:00  
Band 6:30
- 10 Fri** <Pine Bush Players> 4:00
- 11 Sat** <Maria's Prayer>

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- 12 Sun** Care team 11:15  
Suburban Sounds 4:00  
Youth Fellowship 5:30
- 13 Mon** Lent Small Group 10:00
- 14 Tue** Prayer Shawl - noon  
<Scouts 5048> 6:00
- 15 Wed** Stretching w/Friends 6:00  
Choir 7:30

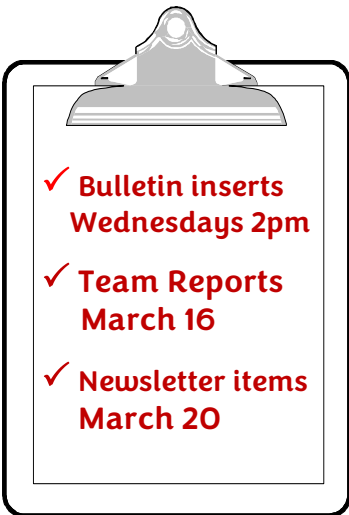
- 16 Thu** **Reports to Consistory Due**  
In His Presence 9:30  
Band 6:30
- 17 Fri** <Pine Bush Players> 4:00
- 18 Sat** <Maria's Prayer>

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- 19 Sun** Hudson Mohawk Recorder 2:00  
Suburban Sounds 4:00  
Youth Fellowship 5:30
- 20 Mon** Lent Small Group 10:00  
**Newsletter deadline**
- 21 Tue** Consistory  
<Scouts 5048> 6:00
- 22 Wed** Stretching with Friends 6:00  
Choir 7:30
- 23 Thu** In His Presence 9:30  
<Scouts 5005>6:00  
Band 6:30
- 24 Fri** <Pine Bush Players> 4:00
- 25 Sat** <Maria's Prayer>

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- 26 Sun** Suburban Sounds 4:00
- 27 Mon** Lent Small Group 10:00  
Red Cross Blood Drive 1-7pm
- 28 Tue** Prayer Shawl - noon  
In His Presence 12:30  
<Scouts 5048> 6:00
- 29 Wed** Art with Schardt 1-3pm  
Stretching with Friends 6:00  
Choir 7:30
- 30 Thu** In His Presence 9:30  
Band 6:30
- 31 Fri** <Pine Bush Players> 4:00



### 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

(518) 356-4327

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