Life of Lynnwood

NOVEMBER 2022

LYNNWOOD REFORMED CHURCH

3714 CARMAN RD · SCHENECTADY NY 12303 · 518-356-4327 · LYNNWOODREFORMED.ORG

The Pastor's Notebook from the desk of Pastor Garret

There is always something going on at Lynnwood these days.

A few weeks back we celebrated the arrival of fall with the Fall Festival, where we tempted the fate of intestinal discomfort with a chili cookoff as the Hilltown Ramblers plucked away in a warm autumn breeze.

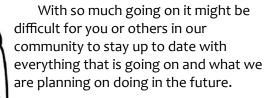
The Youth Group helped Ellen Robbiano prepare meals to be distributed

to those in need at the Street Soldiers of Schenectady giveaway, and then a week later perused Goodwill in search of Halloween costumes for each other.

We took time on October 30th to remember and celebrate All Saints Sunday, where we lit candles with teary eyes for faithful members of Lynnwood who passed away during COVID, or other loved ones who passed away.

We are also on the hunt for two people. First, someone to fill the Director of Faith Formation position that is now vacant from Lucas leaving. Second, the Worship Team and Consistory approved a Worship Intern position to help support the music ministry and tech team (more details inside the newsletter).

This says nothing of the tireless effort of the Building and Property team keeping the grounds and building looking in tip-top shape, the Mission team collecting and delivering food donations to those in need, the Care team reaching out to shut-ins, Worship team crafting services for Advent, the Faith Formation team planning out the Christmas Pageant (yes, its is almost that time of year), the Stewardship team planning the yearly pledge drive, and much more.



And further, I imagine that right now you or some others in the Lynnwood community might feel disconnected from Lynnwood due to the pandemic or other circumstances.

If you are searching for ways to connect I want to send another invitation to attend the Appreciative Inquiry on Saturday, November 5th. This is an opportunity to talk about what we love about Lynnwood currently and also what we loved about Lynnwood in the past. This is an opportunity for all people to help chart the direction of Lynnwood moving forward.

If you have any questions or still wonder if the Appreciative Inquiry is right for you I encourage you to connect with me or a member of Consistory.

If you are ready to sign up for the event then you can go on our website to RSVP. We are looking to have that information to know how to plan for lunch and childcare.

I hope to see you there!

Pastor Garret



Worship with us Sundays at 9:45 in person, on Facebook or YouTube

Stewardship Dedication Sunday is November 20

As we enjoy this season of harvest and prepare for Thanksgiving, the Lynnwood Reformed Church Stewardship Team and Consistory invite members and friends to set aside time to think and pray about what it will look like in the coming year for you to be a faithful steward of your time, energy, passions, talents, and financial resources. As part of your stewardship and gratitude for God's gifts, we hope that you will be able to partner with Lynnwood's ministry, both through time and financial commitments.

We plan to celebrate our stewardship commitments on November 20 at 9:45 am with a Dedication Service in the Fellowship Center followed immediately by a celebratory breakfast to thank people for their support of Lynnwood's ministry. All are welcome!

Your support for Lynnwood in 2022 enabled ministry throughout the continuing challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic via in-person worship, livestreaming of worship services, and capacity for meeting by videoconference and/or combined videoconferencing and in-person meetings. Among other ministries, we have continued financial support for four vital local community organizations— Bethesda House, Schenectady Community Ministries, City Mission, and the Guilderland Food Pantry.

If you are able to support Lynnwood's ministry, please let us know. There are several ways you may

send us your financial pledge information before November 20. You may complete a pledge card (available on the information shelf in the narthex) and return it via US mail, place it in the collection plate, or drop it by the church office. Alternatively, you may fill out a Google form on our webpage at <u>www.lynnwoodreformed.org/pledgecard</u>. You may also send the information in the body of an email to the deacons at <u>deacons@lynnwoodreformed.org</u>. Please know that all financial information will be kept confidential and will be seen only by the deacons. The Stewardship Team and the Consistory strive to be good stewards of the financial resources entrusted to Lynnwood, and we will use information about your financial commitment in planning for 2023.

We realize that financial circumstances change, and we understand that your commitment might look different than it did in years past. As always, if you are really struggling financially we would love to hear from you in order to come alongside you. Please reach out to the deacons with the email address above or contact Pastor Garret at pastorgarret@lynnwoodreformed.org.

Your prayerful consideration of your finances and support for Lynnwood goes a long way in helping minister to people in the Capital Region of New York and beyond. Thank you for prayerfully considering your support of Lynnwood's ministry.

Lynnwood Stewardship team

	<u> Giving to Glorify God</u>
	Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Psalm 15O
	My 2023 Stewardship Pledge
to Lynnwood Re	ful consideration, I (we) make a total commitment of \$ per week/month (circle one) formed Church for the year 2023 in response to God's generosity and in support of Christ's ministry bod Reformed Church. (Please be sure to allow \$108.01 extra per member for your RCA assessment) Total Estimated Giving for 2023 is \$
Name(s)	Phone
Address	Date
Email	I would like to know more about online and/or scheduled giving
	Please return by Dedication Sunday, November 20

UPDATES from CONSISTORY

This month at Consistory we:

- Made plans for the Appreciative Inquiry event to ensure that the day goes smoothly.
- Acknowledged the resignations for Deacon Sandy Lundstedt and Deacon Debbie Perretta.
- Received an update about the work the Nominations Team is doing to find new elders and deacons for Consistory. If you are interested in serving please reach out to Pastor Garret or a member of Consistory.
- Canceled the February Brooks' BBQ.
- Spoke about Job openings and transitions.

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."

Assessments

Our church is a member of the Schenectady Classis, Albany Synod, and the Reformed Church in America. Because of these memberships, we are assessed for every confirmed member. In 2022, our church has been assessed \$108.01 per member. You may make a separate payment (over and above your pledge) for this - just mark your payment "RCA assessment." Thank you!

Christmas Pageant

On Sunday, December 18th we will be celebrating worship with a Christmas Pageant! The Faith Formation Team is already hard at work to make this year's pageant a great one. You can help us out by letting us know that you will be participating in the pageant this year. You can email Pastor Garret at <u>pastorgar-ret@lynnwoodreformed.org</u>, or let Ms. Becky know that you are going to be there. We need to know who is going to take part by Sunday Nov. 20th so that we can start planning.

Faith Formation

Explorations class for children in kindergarten through Grade 5 gathers Sundays, leaving for class during worship before the scripture reading.

Youth Group meets Sunday evenings (except the last Sunday of the month) from 5:30-7:00.
November 6 - Youth Dinner 5:30 - We will eat pizza and bake treats for the Election day Bake Sale
November 13 - Bowling - 3:00
November 20 - Helping Hands 5:30
We will write Christmas cards for Lynnwood shut-ins and the elderly.
November 27 - (no meeting) Happy Thanksgiving!

Election Day Bake Sale

Calling all bakers! Election Day Bake Sale Nov. 8 from 8am-7pm, to benefit Hurricane Ian relief efforts through World Renew, and a youth retreat to Camp Fowler. Baked goods may be brought to church on Monday, Nov. 7 and placed in the kitchen. Contact Shannon Comparetta if you would like to help during the day.

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

Gratitude

First and foremost I wish to thank the Good Lord for my husband Don who is my helper, supporter, encourager etc. Many thanks to my children Karen Hallenbeck, Doug and Sue Dean for their love and care (thanks to technology), and all of my Lynnwood Friends. The rides, the delicious dishes dropped off, the cards, the phone calls and PRAYERS. I find myself still struggling - COVID did me no favor! I so wish to get back to worshiping at church. Livestream is great but being there is much better. Thank you Lord for leading us to Lynnwood 61 years ago...a vital part of our lives. Jean Dean

I am so very grateful for Lynnwood Reformed Church and all its members and constituents. ,Before my husband Alan's death, we enjoyed the fellowship and spiritually uplifting environment. During his illness and death, I have felt such a wonderful presence that has supported me. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Nancy Rhodes





The Buildings and Properties Team would like to thank the people who gave of their time, energy, and comfort to help maintain the 4+ acres of church lawns this mowing season: Ken Klapp, Greg Comparetta, Trevor Rueckert, Randy Mix, and Walt Cogswell. Their efforts help demonstrate to all who pass-by or who use our facilities that the Lynnwood community cherishes what the Lord has provided. *Thank you!!*



To the Lynnwood Prayer Shawl Ministry

The family of Peter Vandenburgh thanks you for your kind expression of sympathy. Sincere thanks for the beautiful prayer shawl but especially for the message on the card that came with it. I feel God's love but need to be reminded at times like this. Thank you for sharing this with me. Sincerely, Nancy VanDenburgh

Colorful Creator, God of mystery, Thank You for the artist teaching us to see Glimpses of the meaning of the commonplace Visions of the holy in each human face.

Harmony of ages, God of listening ear, Thank You for composers tuning us to hear Echoes of the Gospel in the songs we sing Sounds of love and longing from the deepest spring.



Happy Thanksgiving! from Jean La Crosse and Janith Mason

God of truth and beauty, Poet of the Word May we be creators by the Spirit stirred Open to Your presence in our joy and strife Vessels of the holy coursing through our life.

Times of change and conflict when we choose our way.

Author of our journey, God of near and far, Praise for tale and drama telling who we are

Stripping to the essence struggles of our day



Ruth Duck ©1993 Hope Publishing Company CCLI Song #7049160











Photos graciously provided by Neil Satterly







Mission

NOVEMBER WARM CLOTHING DRIVE FOR BETHESDA HOUSE, SCHENECTADY, NY

A local Lynnwood Reformed Church Mission

<u>What is needed</u>: Warm winter clothing for Men/Women/Children: sweaters, long sleeve shirts, pants, gloves, hats and socks for the cold winter months

When: LRC will be collecting these items during the month of November (last day to donate is November 30)

Where: Items can be dropped in the large box under the stairs by the library labeled "Bethesda House." Coats may be hung in the coat room in the narthex under "Bethesda House" signs.

Questions: Contact Tom Schardt. Mission team member (thomasjschardt@gmail.com or 518-424-1507.



BETHESDA HOUSE is an interfaith ministry to the homeless, disabled and economically disadvantaged citizens of Schenectady County, building a just, hospitable and inclusive community one person at a time by affirming the dignity and addressing the needs of each guest entering this "House of Mercy."

Bethesda House lives out their mission by:

- Providing a safety net of social services and advocacy for the homeless, disabled and economically disadvantaged;
- Addressing the needs of the whole person by encouraging self-respect, personal responsibility and the discovery and exercise of one's gifts for the good of self and community;
- Educating the Schenectady community concerning the needs of vulnerable citizens and creating opportunities for the community to unite in celebrating diversity and serving the disadvantaged;
- Collaborating with other social service agencies to enhance creativity, synergy and efficiency, to provide ease of access to and a continuum of services while avoiding duplication of services.



GUILDERLAND FOOD PANTRY

Current needs include: **bagged instant potatoes, canned fruit, cake mix and frosting.** You may find the collection box on the front landing.



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 Janith Mason 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

Lynnwood has sponsored Prison Fellowship Angel Tree Christmas for <u>41 years</u>. We have provided gifts for children living in Schenectady whose Mom or Dad is presently in prison.

When Mom or Dad is in prison, it is the children who do hard time. But you can let them know they are not forgotten. "Lynnwood Angels" can provide the joy of Christmas to these

youngsters. Gifts are given with love from their incarcerated parents. We often hear, "These are the only gifts my children will receive."

Angel Gift tags listing articles of clothing or an entertainment item (toy, book, etc.) for these children **will be available in the narthex November 20.** You are invited to purchase the gift as requested, and return the WRAPPED GIFT, with the Angel tag attached. As per Prison Fellowship guidelines, each gift must be new and its value not to exceed \$25.00.

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

Another option is to purchase a gift card for Target, J.C. Penney, or Walmart. Children can then purchase what they need or want.

If you have questions or wish to give a monetary contribution toward the purchase of gifts, we would be happy to be your personal shoppers. See Kathy Ader, 518-456-3648

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





Giving Sunday is December 4

Every year we bless needy children in Schenectady with a gift for the **City Mission Christmas Shop**, where parents may select new, unwrapped toys, free of charge, for their children, bringing much joy to them in this wonderful season. Volunteers will wrap the toys and help parents select the toys.

On December 4 (or any day prior) you are invited to place under our tree your unwrapped gift suitable for children up to age 15.

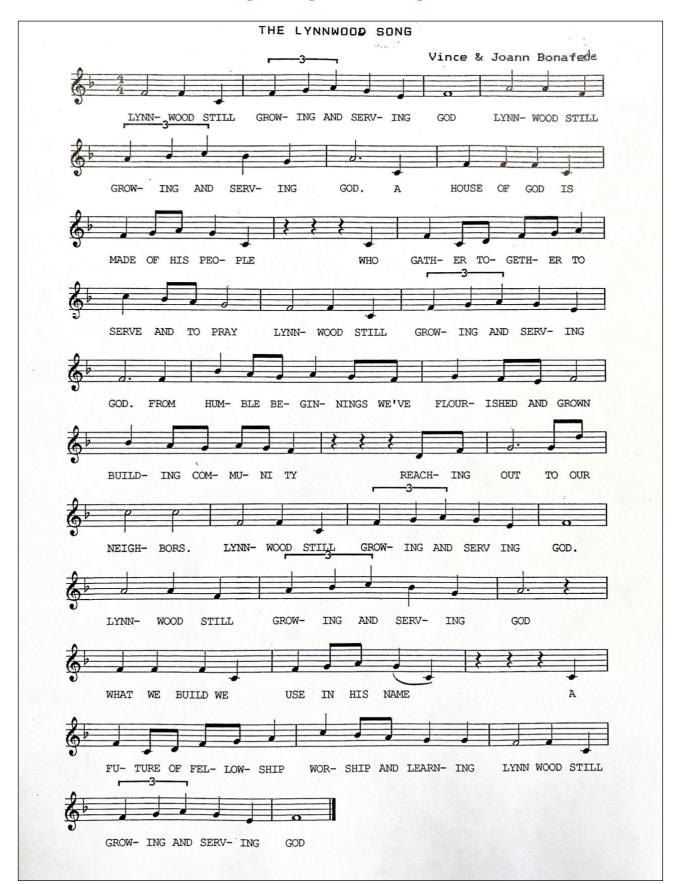
Thank you - and the Mission team wishes you a wonderful Christmas season.



Did you know Lynnwood has a song?

This was written years ago by our then organist and choir director, Vince Bonafede, and his wife, Joann.

Still growing and serving God!



<u>Birthdays</u>

November Calendar

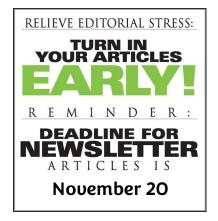
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www.lynnwoodreformed.org (518) 356-4327

Pastor Garret Szantner pastorgarret@lynnwoodreformed.org

> Director of Music Jean La Crosse

Office Manager Janith W. Mason office@lynnwoodreformed.org



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!



Please RSVP on our website <u>www.lynnwoodreformed.org</u>. Th is will help us plan for lunch and ch ildcare!



Understanding the Appreciative Inquiry Process

Q: What is Appreciative Inquiry?

A: Appreciative Inquiry is a strengths-based model of changemaking. It was developed in the 1980s at Case Western University as a way to engage organizational stakeholders in creating change that is driven by the organization. Samaritan Counseling Center's Clergy and Congregational Care Program utilizes Appreciative Inquiry with congregations that are seeking to gain a sense of clarity around identity, values, goal-setting, and future planning.

Q: So, is this just another form of consulting?

A: Appreciative Inquiry differs from traditional consulting in that the members of the organization (or, in this case, the church) drive the vision, rather than a consultant telling an organization who they are. At every step of the AI process, the facilitators seek to ensure that the members of the organization identify WHO they are, WHAT matters to them, and HOW to live out their core values.

Q: We've done something like this before. What's different?

A: In most assessments of organizations, the focus is often on what is wrong with the organization. Appreciative Inquiry doesn't focus on the flaws. Rather, it seeks to build on the strengths that members identify. The emphasis on using strengths-based language and thinking is grounded in the psychological belief that "language creates reality". In other words, if you focus on the bad, the overall feeling about the process is negative. But if you focus on what is good, the overall feeling is more hopeful and encouraging.

Q: What is the Congregation's role?

A: The key to Appreciative Inquiry is the role of the congregation. The congregation will be invited to a large-group event in which members will be asked to identify the reasons for their continued investment in the church. From the very beginning, members are encouraged to share what excites and encourages them, in order to focus on the strengths each member brings. Without this understanding, it becomes difficult for the congregation to accurately identify what truly matters to it and thus how to develop meaningful, self-defined change.

Q: How long does this process take?

A: The Appreciative Inquiry process takes about 12 months to complete, but the majority of the work is done up front. The congregation wide event will take place over a one-day period in which values and goals of the congregation are discerned. From there, a team will work to clarify these values and goals and present them to the congregation for buy-in. All members of the congregation will be asked to invest in the process for a period of 6-12 months. At every step of the way, the Session will be assessing what is and isn't working, and seek to tweak the focus to ensure maximum investment is put towards the goals demonstrating the most buy-in.

Q: Will Appreciative Inquiry help our church grow?

A: The Appreciative Inquiry process is not designed specifically as a church growth model. Rather, it is designed to streamline and clarify <u>what matters most</u> to the congregation in order to develop programs and goals with depth. When a church is clear on who it is and what matters to it, it gives others a clearer sense of where they can join and buy-in to the mission, vision, and values. Growth may come as a part of the process but the process is focused more heavily on developing long term health and stability of the congregation.

Q: Why should I participate?

A: Too often when organizations seek to make change, they ask outside voices to tell them what's wrong and how to fix it. Appreciative Inquiry is different. The AI process relies on you, a stake-holder; someone who is <u>invested</u>, to share what is already working. If an organization doesn't know what matters, it is hard to identify what the congregation actually wants to invest in. Without that knowledge, congregations often start programs without a real assessment of the likelihood of congregational investment.

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 Worship Ministry Intern Part-time Job Description

we are hiring Join the team

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 Relationship:

- 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.