



# Inside Lisha's Kill

A publication of the *Lisha's Kill Reformed Church*



## Pastor's Ponderings

March 2017

Something you may not know about me is that I collect crosses. I have a number of cross necklaces: some set in silver, some in gold; some are delicate, others bold and chunky; some simple, some ornate; some come from my childhood, and others are recently purchased from places throughout the world to which I've traveled.

Other crosses in my collection adorn the walls and shelves of my home and office. One is surrounded by a butterfly, signifying the resurrection; another has a manger scene at its center, signifying that Jesus was born to die. I have a Crusader's cross known as a Cross of St. Andrew (who Christianized the Romanians in 100 A.D.), which our son brought me from Romania. Sitting below it on my office shelf is a pewter Shepherd's cross from Rome, depicting symbols of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. A cross on my desk I obtained in China, and the Mandarin words written upon it are from John 3:16 and 14:6: "I am the way, the truth and the life." There, too, is a wooden cross I received in Jerusalem as we walked the *Via Dolorosa*, the way of the cross. Most recently I obtained a wrought iron cross in Arles, France, which depicts, from a fisherman's perspective, the three Christian symbols for faith, hope and love.

So why do I tell you this? First, in order to emphasize that the cross is not our "personal property", and the church is not limited to our tiny corner of the globe. As I have traveled to many places in the world to meet with other Christians, I am constantly humbled to see that we do not have a corner on the truth of Jesus. Christians around the world are doing amazing gospel work, both in evangelism and social justice, and we can learn much from their work and witness.

Second, I write this to remind us that the cross and the empty tomb are still at the center of our faith. Just as the cross is front and center in our worship space, so we come to know the God whom we worship most completely through the cross. The cross reminds us that "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that we might not perish but have eternal life." Therefore, we must resist making the Christian faith primarily about doctrines or moral imperatives, and instead speak about the love and grace of God.

Finally, the cross reminds us that God's love is suffering love. In the incarnation God came to us to be one with us, to suffer beyond what we will ever suffer, in order to

*continues...*

### **PASTOR:**

Rev. Dr. Lisa Vander Wal

### **CONSISTORY**

#### **Board of Elders**

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- Inside: Courtney Bloomingdale
- Outside: John Rzeszuto

**Librarian:** Joan Byam

**Organist:** Evelyn Gordon

### **Choir Director:**

JoAnne McNamara

### **Sunday Service:**

10:00am

### **Christian Education:**

Children: 11:20am

Adults: 9:00am & 11:30am



*Pastor's Ponderings, continued from page 1...*

be in relationship with us. This means that God is with us in our suffering and will never leave or forsake us.

The final cross in my collection is the wooden one I received along with my Doctor of Ministry degree from New Brunswick Theological Seminary in May, 2016. You will often see it around my neck as I lead worship. It is a reminder to me that my ministry among you is centered in the cross of Jesus Christ.

My prayer is that as we journey through Lent this year, we will be people who witness to what God has done for us in sending Jesus to be our Suffering Savior, who bears our sins and heals our diseases.

Joyfully serving with you,

*Pastor Lisa*

*P.S. On a lighter note... A man and his ever-cross wife went on vacation to Jerusalem. While they were there, the wife passed away. The undertaker told the husband, "You can have her shipped home for \$5,000, or you can bury her here, in the Holy Land, for \$150." The man thought about it and told him he would just have her shipped home.*

*The undertaker asked, "Why would you spend \$5,000 to ship your wife home, when it would be wonderful to be buried here and you would spend only \$150?"*

*The man replied, "Long ago a man died here, was buried here, and three days later he rose from the dead. I just can't take that chance."*



Food Pantry  
**38 bags**  
through Feb. 28

### Club 55

...will be getting together on Thursday, March 9 at 11:00am. The group will be meeting at the Route 7 Diner and will order off the menu. This is a fun group for seniors. If you haven't attended before, but would like to come, please do!

### NEAT Dinner (Not Eating Alone Tonight)

...will be on Thursday, March 23 at 4:30pm. This month the NEAT cooks will be serving macaroni & cheese, chicken tenders, rolls, green beans & almonds, dessert and beverages. Reservations appreciated by Monday, March 20.

### Creative Ministries

...is a group for crafters. Bring along your scrap booking, rubber stamping, sewing, or whatever craft you like to work on and come on over. The group orders out for lunch, but bring your own if you prefer. The next crafting day is Saturday, March 11 at 9:30am.



## March Calendar

Visit us on the web

to view this month's calendar

**[www.lishaskillchurch.org](http://www.lishaskillchurch.org)**

**Inside Lisha's Kill** is published monthly. The deadline for submitting articles is the 16th of the preceding month.

Drop your **typed** news article in the Newsletter Editor's box in the downstairs consistory office, or email it to: [newsletter@lishaskillchurch.org](mailto:newsletter@lishaskillchurch.org)

Email attachments **must** be Microsoft Word documents (text) or JPEG format (pictures).

Sharon Nagell, Editor

Linda Brennan, Circulation

Printing courtesy of PBR Graphics



### Easter Lilies

The sanctuary is decorated on Easter morning with beautiful lilies. If you would like to order a lily plant and dedicate it in someone's honor or memory, you may do so by contacting the church office. The plants cost \$6.25 each. Prepaid orders along with the dedication **must be received by April 5**. A list of the dedications will be included with the Easter Sunday bulletin. You may take your plant home following worship.

### Food Pantry Needs

Listed in the announcements each week is a suggested item for a weekly donation to the SICM Food Pantry. Collection bins are in the front and rear entryways of the church, and donations are brought to the food pantry every week. Baby food and cereals are in constant need. Other immediate needs include shelf-stable milk (evaporated, powdered, soy), canned veggies, soups, canned fruit, 100% fruit juices, canned beans, nut butters, tuna, and grains (brown rice, whole-wheat pasta, quinoa).

### Newsletter Mailing List

...is being updated. Please contact the church office if there have been changes to your contact information, if you'd like to receive your copy via e-mail, or if you'd prefer to be removed from the mailing list.

### Daylight Saving Time

...begins March 12. Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday night.

## Upcoming Events



- **CROP Walk: Sunday, May 7**
- **Mother/Daughter Banquet: Friday, May 12**  
Dinner at 6:30pm, followed by entertainment.  
More details to be announced.

### The History of Lisha's Kill Reformed Church: Part 2

As near as records show, the Niskayuna Church on the Troy-Schenectady Road was organized about 1750 and served families from a wide area. The families from our area, known as Lishaskill, made the trip to Niskayuna for the morning Sabbath worship and in the afternoon conducted Sabbath school themselves in the local schoolhouse. The families then came together for a devotional meeting in the evening either in a private home or at the schoolhouse (roughly in the locality of the present Roosevelt School).

Therefore, in 1852 the time was ripe for these very religiously active families to want a church of their own. It is interesting to note that one main reason for the decision to build in 1852 was that the church at Niskayuna was in a sad state of disrepair and too small for the size of the congregation. Since a new building was needed, the families of this area reasoned that they would be called upon to contribute to a new building at Niskayuna and therefore they decided to raise the necessary funds to build a church at Lishaskill.

Thus, on June 3, 1852, the first meeting was held in the old Watervliet School House (now called Roosevelt) to consider the matter of raising funds for the new church. On the 12th of June more than \$1200 had been pledged and, in view of this, the decision was made to proceed with a meeting on October 23 to formally organize a church. One aspect of the thinking of these early founders which is notable and significant is that no decision was made to organize until it was established that funds were available to build. Names of the early families and founders are still evident today in street names: Lansing, Ostrom, Pearse, Consaul. The building was to be built "on the Ostrom farm, across from the blacksmith shop," on a three-quarter plot purchased from Mr. Ostrom.

The committee applied to the Classis of Schenectady to be established as a distinct church and the request was granted on November 15, 1852. On November 30, forty-nine letters were received from the Niskayuna Church (thirty-two bore the name Lansing). The church was born.

The History of LKRC is taken from the book *The History of the Religious Communities in the Town of Colonie*, published in 1995 by The Town of Colonie Centennial Committee. Look for more installments in future editions of this newsletter.



Lisha's Kill Reformed Church  
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**Lisha's Kill Reformed Church is a family of believers  
 committed to touching lives for Jesus Christ in today's world.**



**Hello!**

Here is your monthly newsletter from the Lisha's Kill Reformed Church. We hope you will enjoy all of the items inside and will find it helpful in knowing more about your church.

- SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP ..... 10:00am
- CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (for children)..... 11:20am
- CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (for adults) ..... 9:00am & 11:30am
- WOMEN'S EVENING BIBLE STUDY ..... Tuesday 7:30pm
- AA MEETING ..... Wednesday 7:00pm
- SENIOR CHOIR ..... Wednesday 7:30pm
- CHRISTIAN CLUB "55" ..... 2nd Thursday 11:00am
- N.E.A.T. DINNER ..... 4th Thursday (As Announced) 4:30pm
- MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST & BIBLE STUDY ..... 2nd Saturday 7:30am
- FAMILY ACTIVITIES ..... As Announced
- CREATIVE MINISTRIES ..... As Announced