



Inside Lisha's Kill

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



Pastor's Ponderings

April 2017

For Lent this year I have been using a little book of Lenten devotional prayers. Today's devotion is taken from the story in Mark 9 of a man pleading with Jesus to heal his son. Jesus says to the man, "Everything is possible for one who believes." And the poor man replies, "I believe; help my unbelief!"

The devotion writer goes on to say: "I believe, Lord. I think I believe. I want to believe. I do believe. But I also know doubt. I am familiar with uncertainty. Skepticism is the religion of the day, and I have seen misplaced trust in politics and relationships, in finance and in family. And so I tend to doubt everything. Even you. In the confusion of my own frail faith, point me again to your strong promise. In my baptism, you claimed me as your own. Be true to your promise, Lord, and help me overcome my unbelief. Amen."

I love this prayer because it is so honest. Both the biblical character in Mark and the modern day disciple in the devotion share the humility of knowing that, this side of eternity, we don't always feel strong and sure in our trust in God. We have been disappointed before, and we wonder, will we "see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living" (Psalm 27:13)?

It's also comforting to know that Jesus struggled with what lay ahead of him. In the Garden of Gethsemane he prayed, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." The stories of Holy Week remind us that, just as we encounter dark times, there was also a dark time for Jesus when he too pleaded with his Father to deliver him.

Still, I'm reminded of the famous sermon line: "It's Friday, but Sunday's Coming!" Easter is God's reminder that even in the midst of darkness, uncertainty, suffering and death, Jesus is triumphant. And God will also raise us, and our faith, through the good news of the resurrection of the dead.

May we approach the remainder of Lent and Easter in the certainty that God is with us, leading us into the light of Easter day.

Joyfully serving with you,

Pastor Lisa

PASTOR:

Rev. Dr. Lisa Vander Wal

CONSISTORY

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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



All Are Welcome!

Join us during Holy Week and Easter as we worship and celebrate our Risen Savior! If you are unable to attend any of our worship services, but would like to view the service, please go to our website, and click the tab at the top of the page to be taken to live streaming. You can watch it live on Sunday mornings at 10:00am or anytime.

Holy Week and Easter Services

- **Palm Sunday Service at 10:00am** will include the distribution of palms.
- **Good Friday Service at 7:00pm.**
- **Easter Sunday Service at 10:00am.** Refreshments will be served following worship. 2017 Easter offering has been designated to Bill and Cathy Sparks, our missionaries serving with The Navigators.

CROP Walk: Sunday, May 7

It is the community hunger appeal. A community celebration where people from all walks of life join in a common cause to fight hunger here and overseas. The Schenectady area CROP Walk location is Emmanuel Friedens Church, 218 Nott Terrace, Schenectady, NY 12307. The walk kicks off at 1:30pm after a brief opening ceremony. If you would like to be a walker and/or support one, please contact the church office.

Mother/Daughter Banquet: Friday, May 12, 6:30pm

...is going to be a fashion show: "Fashions through the years!" All ladies are daughters and all are invited to attend. Dinner will be chicken parmesan, tossed salad, Italian bread, veggies/dip, dessert and beverages. Tickets cost \$8.00 each and will go on sale April



Food Pantry
34 bags
through March 26

30 during coffee hour. You may also call the church office by May 8 to reserve your tickets.

Club 55

Club 55 is meeting on Thursday, April 13 at 11:00am. This is a great group for seniors! Come and enjoy a delicious lunch and good conversation. On the menu: subs, macaroni & cheese, potato salad, dessert and beverages. Cost \$7.00 per person. Please RSVP by Monday, April 10.

NEAT Dinner (Not Eating Alone Tonight)

...Thursday, April 27 at 4:30pm. Come and enjoy a great dinner with friends! The NEAT cooks will be serving: ham, scalloped potatoes, rolls, broccoli, fruited Jell-O, veggies & dip, dessert and beverages. Reservations appreciated by April 24. Mark the date: May NEAT will be held on May 25.

Know Any Graduates?

Are you or someone you know graduating this year? Please tell us! Graduates from high school, college, or any higher education...we would like the opportunity to celebrate them all! Please contact the church office.



April Calendar

Visit us on the web
to view this month's calendar
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

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

Sharon Nagell, Editor
Linda Brennan, Circulation
Printing courtesy of PBR Graphics

Lisha's Kill Christian Preschool

Registration is open for the 2017-18 school year. Small class size, affordable tuition, three half days a week (9:00am-12:00pm), secure location; provides a great experience for your child and you! Contact the church office for more information.



Our preschool took a field trip to the supermarket! The class was shown all kinds of cool things from lobsters to cupcake decorating! Many thanks to Hannaford in Niskayuna (and John, our guide) for a trip filled with learning and fun!

Summer Camp Days

In case you've been wondering, our Summer Camp Days program will not be held this year. We hope to offer it again in the future.

Sunday School

The last day of children's classes will be May 21.



Amid candy, egg hunts and bunnies, may we know the true joy of Easter: *Jesus' resurrection!*

The History of Lisha's Kill Reformed Church: Part 3

The people of Lishaskill worshipped at Niskayuna during the winter of 1852 and in the spring of 1853 began holding services at the schoolhouse while construction was begun on the church. The building was dedicated on March 30, 1854. In October 1854, Col. Jno. T. A. Lansing gave "an elegant communion set" to the church (now on display on the new communion table). On June 26, 1857, the consistory of the Second Reformed Church of Schenectady gave a chandelier to the new church. This, unfortunately, has become lost over the years.

The parsonage (now torn down and replaced by the present one) was built in 1859. Even though the minister serving the joint pastorate of Niskayuna and this church lived in Niskayuna, the forefathers of this church wanted to be prepared for the time when it would have its own pastor.

In 1866, the church purchased A. Van Benteusen's orchard for a cemetery and in 1868 the decision was made to enlarge the church by fifteen feet and add a six foot pulpit recess (first major change).

After petitioning the Schenectady Classis, the joint pastorate with Niskayuna was dissolved and our first minister, Rev. Edward McCullum, was installed on November 8, 1883.

In 1890 the semi-annual sale of pews to finance the church was discontinued and the envelope system adopted.

A decision was made in 1907 to adopt individual communion service, and a new communion set was given by the Ladies' Aid in January 1908.

In 1925 came the second major change to the structure. The balcony was raised and extended to the width of the church. Formerly only the choir loft was contained between the entrance doors. Also, the front entrance was raised from ground level and a portico added to the front of the church. Entrances to the lower level were changed and stained glass replaced the clear glass windows in the sanctuary.

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 **April 2017** 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