

The Simeon Spirit

SIMEON UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

MAY 2022

PO Box 478
Gratz, PA 17030

Celebrating Our Faith

Pastor Gregory Lindsey
Church: (717) 365-3139
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A Year of Remembrance to Remember

As you know, we are well into the Bicentennial Celebration of the founding of Simeon United Luther Church. We have planned many intriguing and fun activities for the coming year. These include biweekly Centennial Moments with our resident historian Lynn Schadle providing a history and interesting facts about the founding of our congregation. There will be special guided tours to displays at the Gratz Historical Society, a volley ball tournament with the participation of several other groups in our community, opportunities to eat, a special visit from Simeon Gratz himself. Even Martin Luther plans to make the long voyage from Wittenberg, Germany to make an appearance. This is just to name a few. There are many other events and activities planned. Please check your bulletin regularly and listen for other announcements.

When I read the history of our congregation, I am struck by the many people and events which had to come together to make this all to happen. Many people suffered and sacrificed to build a once meager group of new American Lutherans into a bond of fellowship which weathered many hard years, years of great wars, and years of stained resources. One remarkable story is of “the walking preacher”, the Rev. John Peter Schindel. Schindel had traveled on foot through 5 counties to reach all of his parish flocks. Not being able to reach every congregation by Sunday, others would gather at a minutes moment of the Reverend’s arrival to have a service. Now that is dedication.

It is only right and proper that we remember and recognize all those who came before us and built the foundation we enjoy as our church home. In the years ahead, that same fortitude and dedication will be needed to continue to make sure we always have a vibrant church and a place for our children to call their home.

Please make a commitment to attend every event possible. We don’t do this just for our amusement, but rather to strengthen the bonds of fellowship we already share with each other. Thank you.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Greg

RUMMAGE SALE



Mark your calendars! The Fellowship committee is hosting a soup and rummage sale on May 13th and 14th

May 13- open from 8:30 – 6:00

May 14- open from 8:00- 1:00

Soup- Till sold out (Sign up sheet in narthex) Reserve yours now!

Ham and Bean (Open kettle, prepared by the Ferster family so you know it's good).

Chicken Corn Noodle \$8 a quart -

Rummage – Time to clean closets, cupboards, etc. and donate your clean, usable items to the rummage sale.

Bring your stuff beginning May 1st. If you have too much to bring on Sunday let Susan Krause know and I will arrange to unlock the doors for you.

We are looking for volunteers to help make the soup on May 12th. We also need help to run the sale on both days. Sign up sheet is in the narthex.



CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FROM APRIL 2022

1. **Worship and Music** – Organ tuners were here and worked on the organ. Thank you to Bruce for a great job with the paraments and the flowers and thank you to Sharon Erdman for her help. Thank you to Karen Romberger for her job with all of the communions.

2. **Parish Education**- Egg hunt went well. Bible school will be June 13-17, 2022, at the Gratz Park.

3. **Stewardship and Evangelism** - We will be hosting a Youth Volleyball Tournament during the summer in the Borough Park. Mike Hartman applied for a grant for Youth Day, requesting \$1,500.00, and has not received a response to date. We are working with the Historical Society to develop a historical display and hoping to have an open house/picnic combining the two organizations and opening the Society display up to the community. Simon Gratz will be presenting the original pulpit Bible to the congregation when he visits on Pentecost Sunday, June 5, 2022. Martin Luther will be speaking on October 30, 2022 and discussing his part in historical events leading to the Protestant Reformation. On September 18, 2022, we will be hosting a luncheon following the service and requesting assistance as we update our cemetery records. On December 10, 2022, a Christmas Tour of area homes as well as the Gratz Historical Society and the Church will be held. In Autumn we will begin evangelical outreach with the institution of Foyer Groups. Foyer Groups are groups of three or four couples/families that agree to meet independently over the following year, with each family taking a turn to host. These groups strengthen the ties within the church community and offer opportunities to include unchurched friends and neighbors. Our first Bicentennial Minute was distributed on Palm Sunday and the second will be in this week's bulletin. Our Invitation to Tell the Story is generating some replies, but we ask for reminders to be made in the upcoming newsletters. Next dinner meeting at the Schadle's home on Monday, April 25, 2022, at 6:00p.m.

4. **Social Ministry** – None.

5. **Youth** – Possible camping at Camp Nawakwa. Working on some projects.

6. **Church Property** – Discussion on the Steeple Lights.

7. **Budget and Finance** - None.

8. **Fellowship** –Rummage/Soup Sale on May 13-14, 2022. Donations for the rummage sale will be accepted in the church basement beginning May 1, 2022. Soups will be Ham& Bean and Chicken Corn. Darlene Novinger requested and received Thrivent money to help pay for supplies for the soup. Our next Fellowship will be June 12, 2022.

9. **Mutual Ministry** – None.

New Business – Radio programs for the last 3 weeks have been the correct programs. Discussion was held. Motion made by Darlene Novinger, if Sunday's service is correct we will pay the April bill. We will start billing May sponsors. Seconded by Mike Hartman. Approved.

The Pastor's Time – Visited Polk and conducted a service and will do another service in June. Will start providing communion and visitation with home bound.

2022 GIVING

\$32,890.12

2022 EXPENSES

\$36,629.75

Difference between YTD Giving & YTD Expenses (\$ -3,739.63)

{For General Operating Fund}

“VOICE OF SIMEON” RADIO MINISTRY SPONSORS

May 2022

May 1 – Buffington/Reed Funeral Home

May 8 – Willing Workers

May 15 –

May 22 – Sunset View Contractors LLC

May 29 – Deppen’s Farm Inc.

We want to thank our faithful sponsors in continuing to help with this important ministry of our church especially during these trying times. God bless you and be safe.

DAILY DEVOTIONALS

The Daily Devotionals for April - June 2022 are also available in the narthex. Pick yours up or have someone get them for you if you don’t feel okay to come to church.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

We continue to thank **all** of our church members who keep sending their offering envelopes through the postal system as well as coming to church in person to worship and donate that way. If you still belong as a member of our church and go elsewhere to services, we still appreciate your offerings, as well as missing your fellowship and presence with us. God be with you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May

Sunday, May 1 - Worship Service/ Holy Comm.

Sunday, May 8 - Worship Service/ **Happy Mother’s Day**

Friday, May 13 – Rummage/soup sale 8:30-6

Saturday, May 14 - Food Bank Open 9-11am & Rummage/soup sale 9-1

Sunday, May 15 - Worship Service/ **Music Sunday**

Thursday, May 19 - **Council meeting 7pm**

Friday, May 20 - **Newsletter Deadline**

Saturday, May 21 – **Armed Forces Day**

Sunday, May 22 - Worship Service

Thursday, May 26 – **THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD**

Sunday, May 29 - Worship Service

Monday, May 30 – **Memorial Day**

June

Sunday, June 5 – **Day of Pentecost** Worship Service/ Holy Communion

Saturday, June 11- Food Bank Open 9-11am

Sunday, June 12 – **Holy Trinity Sunday** Worship service

Tuesday, June 14 – Flag Day

Thursday, June 16 - **Council meeting 7pm**

Friday, June 17 - **Newsletter Deadline**

Sunday, June 19 - Worship Service/ Father’s Day

Tuesday, June 21 – Summer Begins

Sunday, June 26 - Worship Service

BIBLE SCHOOL WILL BE HELD AT THE GRATZ PARK JUNE 13-17 FROM 9-11

Little Hands Nursery School News

We're just entering the last month of our Little Hands 2021/2022 school year – and what a GREAT year we've had!

We started things off in September as knights of the Little Hands Castle! 11 children in the Monday/Wednesday 3-year old class and 12 children in the Tuesday/Thursday 4-year old class* gallantly “armored up” to fight dragons, battle evil-doers, and protect our castle all while learning to “be strong in the Lord”! It was an awesome beginning, and we're still singing that theme song!

In October, our first topic was fire prevention and safety. We also learned about the number to dial in an emergency. Then we talked about leaves, apples, pumpkins and all things autumn. The month ended with our Halloween parties and a fun parade of costumes around the sanctuary!

After talking about the Solar System and our 5 Senses, November was a month for giving thanks! As is our tradition, throughout the month, we talked about sharing what we have to help others, and the children brought in money to drop in our “Giving Bank”. This year, we gave \$400 to the Gratz Food Bank, our biggest donation ever!! We finished the month with our annual Little Hands-style Thanksgiving Feast!

Christmas and Jesus' birthday were the topics of conversation in December! We also had visits from “Elfie” the elf, and Santa HIMSELF made an appearance at our end of year Christmas parties! It was a fantastic first half of our school year!

January was all about winter and SNOW! We had a parachute blizzard, had an indoor snowball fight, made indoor snowmen...we even played on glaciers! It was a month of frozen fun!!

In February, our classroom thawed-out with talk of love and friendship! We also talked about keeping our teeth healthy (tell those cavity bugs to “get out ‘a town”) and loose teeth. The “Tooth Fairy” paid us a visit too!

March was a CRAZY month with “The Cat in the Hat” and those pesky leprechauns making clandestine visits to our classroom and tearing the place apart! We also had “Pet Week” and some critters came in to visit us!

Just when you thought it couldn't get any better, the month ended with one of our favorite activities – the “Pajama Party”! We had a ROARING good time all month long!

Along with talk of spring, keeping God's world beautiful and recycling, April's big topic was the Easter story and the new life Jesus brings. Our preschoolers LOVE to hear and help tell the story of Jesus' death and resurrection! And I think the halls are still ringing with the words of our favorite song, “Jesus Lives”!!

May is our last month of school, and we'll be having a lot of fun activities including a visit from the Gratz Fair Queen; “Chutes and Bubbles” day; a “Mystery” Play date; Beach Day; and a day at the Gratz Park on the last days of school. Our school year ends with a “Drive Through” Moving-Up Program and “Drive Through” Graduation on May 22nd!

It has been another FANTASTIC school year and we are blessed with wonderful children and amazing families!! We look forward to more fun and learning opportunities next year!!

Wishing you all a wonderful summer!!

Miss Laurie and Miss Vicki

** Since COVID, we dropped down to TWO classes – a 3-year old class and a 4-year old class each meeting 2 mornings a week. Also the CDC still recommends masking for daycares and preschools, so we have been following that recommendation and also restricting outside visitors and large gatherings. Hopefully in September we can start the new school year MASK FREE and again have our Christmas Program and Moving-Up Program and Graduation in the Sanctuary!!

SERVING IN MAY & JUNE

MAY 1, 2022
3RD SUNDAY
AFTER EASTER
HOLY COMMUNION

GREETER: Leah Schade
READER: John Novinger
USHER: Matt Ferster
GLASSES: Minerva Neagley
ALTAR: Dennis Barge

MAY 8, 2022
4TH SUNDAY
AFTER EASTER

GREETER: Mike Hartman
READER: Virginia Moore

MAY 15, 2022
5TH SUNDAY
AFTER EASTER

GREETER: Remington Schlegel
READER: Ashley Welker

MAY 22, 2022
6TH SUNDAY
AFTER EASTER

GREETER: Cameron Smeltz
READER: Doris Flynn

MAY 29, 2022
7TH SUNDAY
AFTER EASTER

GREETER: Darlene Novinger
READER: Cameron Smeltz

JUNE 5, 2022
DAY OF PENTECOST
HOLY COMMUNION

GREETER: Dave Strohecker
READER: Lynn Schadle
USHER: Mike Hartman
GLASSES: Sandra Matter
ALTAR: John Novinger & Doris Flynn

JUNE 12, 2022
HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY

GREETER: Virginia Moore
READER: Sharon Erdman

JUNE 19, 2022
2ND SUNDAY AFTER
PENTCOST

GREETER: Doris Flynn
READER: Jean Perkins

JUNE 26, 2022
3RD SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST

GREETER: Matt Ferster
READER: Dennis Barge

THE NEW FLOWER & BULLETIN SPONSOR CHARTS

If you would like to sponsor flowers or bulletins but can't make it to the church to mark it down please call the church office at (717)-365-3139 and leave a message if no one answers.

If no one sponsors them the money comes out of the general fund which is not budgeted.

My Reading Rambles

by Barbara Klinger

This morning, I read Philippians 2:5-11 “Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the Glory of God the Father.” This is the scripture appointed for today in the Christ in Our Home devotional. It got me thinking back to an earlier scripture and devotional I read on the first day of the year that sparked my curiosity and the need to understand more about the name Jesus.

On January 1, 2022, the reading for the day in The Word in Season devotional was Luke 2:15-21. The commentary of the devotion focused more specifically on Luke 2:21a of this reading. Luke 2:21a reads, “His name was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.” The writer wrote, “Jesus was not an unusual name for a Jewish person. Jesus had the same name as Joshua in the Old Testament. The original name for both men, in Hebrew, is actually *Yeshua*, and it means salvation.” After reading this, I immediately was thinking, wait a minute, what? How can two people with the same name in Hebrew get translated to English as two altogether different names?

I talked to Pastor Lindsey about it, and of course given his love for linguistics, he knew. I also went researching on the internet as well to get a much better understanding of everything Pastor Lindsey was talking about when he and I conversed about this. One of the most helpful resources I found to understand this was from an old PBS show, The Origin of Everything. One of the episodes of this show is titled, “What was Jesus’ Real Name?” From my conversation with Pastor Lindsey, the PBS show, and other info I found on the internet, it makes sense to me now and I understand how this can occur. The original Hebrew name for both the English names Jesus and Joshua is the same, *Yeshua*. However, the Hebrew name *Yeshua* more closely aligns in English to the name Joshua. Here is why.

The Old Testament was written in Hebrew and Aramaic. Even though there were other men in the Bible in the Old Testament with the name *Yeshua*, and also men that were contemporaries of Jesus, their names were written in Hebrew. When translated from Hebrew directly to English, their names stuck more closely with the name Joshua when they were converted to English.

The New Testament was written in Greek. Translators tried to convert the word *Yeshua* into the ancient Greek language, but because they didn’t have any letters in Greek to translate to the “sh” of *Yeshua*, they ended up substituting the “sh” sound in the middle of the name to the letter “s,” which ended up being *Iesus* in Greek. It took a while for the “J” sound to be placed in front of the Greek name *Iesus*. It wasn’t until 16th century translations of the English Bible that *Iesus* was spelled *Jesus*. Therefore, a man named *Yeshua* in the Old Testament (written in Hebrew) became Joshua in the English translation, and the *Yeshua* of the New Testament (written in Greek) was transliterated to *Jesus* in the English translation.

Now, the distinction between translation and transliteration is key to understanding how this happened. Translation is the act of changing a word from one language to its equivalent in another language. Transliteration is the conversion of letters and sounds from one alphabet to another. Therefore, the name of *Yeshua* in the Old Testament translates to English as Joshua, and the name *Yeshua* in the New Testament transliterates to the English name *Jesus*.

This means that in the case of Joshua, the name went directly from *Yeshua* in Hebrew (the language the Old Testament was written) to Joshua in English. In the case of Jesus, his name traveled a more linguistic journey going from *Yeshua* in Hebrew to *Iesus* in Greek (the language the New Testament was written) to *Jesus* in English.

I also learned why the Bible refers to people by their first name followed by one or two descriptions after the first name. For the Jewish people, a Jewish name was a First Name (in Hebrew) followed by a name that established a parental connection or place of origin. In Hebrew, a person's name would be First Name (in Hebrew) + Ben (meaning son of) or Bat (meaning daughter of) + Father's Name and sometimes Mother's Name +/- or Place of Origin to help establish where the person is from and to identify people with the same name but from different places.

However, in the case of Jesus, he is the son of God and Mary. So, the traditional Jewish naming convention of Yeshua/Jesus (First Name) Ben (Son of) Joseph (Mary's Husband) wouldn't be fitting. Instead, during his lifetime, he was known as Jesus of Nazareth drawing the second half of his name from where he was from and not from either parent. The Christ portion of his name used in the Bible is a word which, when translated from Greek, means The Messiah or God's Anointed One. This is where the name Jesus Christ originates.

I don't know about you, but I find all of this very fascinating. Now when I read the Bible and I see similar references for people's names, I'll be thinking about all of this information. How exciting to learn some of the mysteries within the Bible and some fascinating facts too. I'm so glad I finally started reading the Bible on a regular basis and have started learning about these captivating pieces of Bible history and nuances that I wasn't aware existed until I started reading it and devotionals. This has made reading this book so much more exciting and interesting. Now I want to learn more and more of what else might be hiding among the pages and the history contained in them. I'd be glad to hear of something intriguing you read in the Bible, a daily devotional, or something that led you to follow your curiosity and what you learned as a result.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Youth Group had an egg-citing time! Pizza, Jenga, trying to walk with eggs between our knees, an indoor egg hunt, impromptu charades, and Mike doing the chicken dance (video will not be shared to protect the innocent)! (Personally, I think Jenny is keeping it for blackmail purposes- just saying).



Dakota deciding which one needs to come out.



Andrew is quite serious as he contemplates.



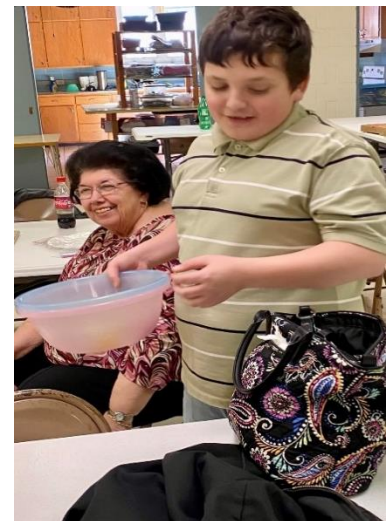
Cameron looks like she played this game before as she chooses one from the middle.



Dakota and Mike are having a face off. Not sure who won but it doesn't look too serious. Jody is off to the side monitoring. (Does anyone else think Jean is pulling Dakota's hair, or is it just me? She claims she's innocent but here is the proof)!



Jean decided she had enough and sat down. Also present was Jenny, but there are never pictures of her because she's always behind the camera so I stole one from her Facebook account. Thanks to the Youth Group leaders for selflessly donating your time to this ministry. You rock!





A social outing started out at Fire and Ice and concluded with attending the play Frozen, Jr. Kirra Roe portrayed Olaf and from we were told, sang her heart out! A star is born!

Easter Egg Hunt

Many thanks to all those who participated in the annual egg hunt.



A special thanks to Cameron Smeltz for her portrayal of the Easter bunny!





Chefs Corner



Springtime Coffee Cake

1 pkg. lemon cake mix

1 can peach filling

3 eggs

Topping

½ cup sugar

½ cup flour

½ tsp. lemon juice

½ cup nuts

¼ cup butter

½ tsp lemon juice

Combine dry cake mix, eggs, pie filling, and lemon juice. Blend on low speed of mixer till well mixed the fold in nuts. Spread in to greases 9x13 inch baking pan. Combine topping ingredients and sprinkle over the top. Bake at 350* for 40-50 minutes. (if desired you may mix together 10x sugar and some milk to make a drizzle and drizzle it over the top when cake is cooled.)

Mandarin Orange Sherbet Salad

1 large pkg. orange Jello

1 pint orange sherbet

1 can mandarin oranges

2 bananas (sliced)

1 cup whipped topping

2 cups boiling water

Dissolve Jello in 2 cups boiling water. Add sherbet (that has been removed from freezer for 5-10 minutes) and stir until dissolved. Chill until partly set. Add the whipped topping and fruit. Mix thoroughly and pour into 9x13 inch pan and let set in refrigerator.

Quick and Easy Minestrone Soup

5 ribs of celery (chopped)

1 cup onion (chopped)

2 tbsp. oil

¼ tsp. thyme

¼ lb. spaghetti

2(no.2) cans kidney beans

1 cup tomato juice

1 tsp salt

½ tsp pepper

¼ tsp. oregano

¼ tsp. paprika

¼ lb. American cheese

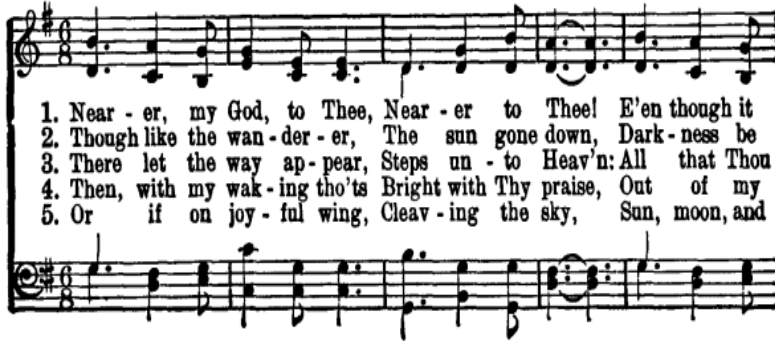
Sauté celery and onion in oil. Cook spaghetti in salted water, do not drain. Add celery, onions, beans, tomato juice, and seasonings and spices. Simmer for about 15 minutes. Grate cheese and add last. Simmer until cheese melts. Serve with your favorite bread.

Music Notes

Nearer, My God, to Thee

SARAH F. ADAMS

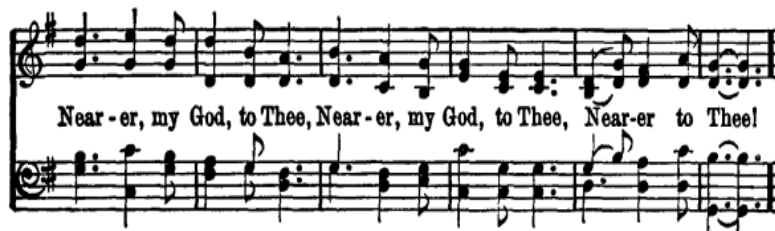
LOWELL MASON



1. Near - er, my God, to Thee, Near - er to Thee! E'en though it
2. Though like the wan - der - er, The sun gone down, Dark - ness be
3. There let the way ap - pear, Steps un - to Heav'n: All that Thou
4. Then, with my wak - ing tho'ts Bright with Thy praise, Out of my
5. Or if on joy - ful wing, Cleav - ing the sky, Sun, moon, and



be a cross That rais - eth me; Still all my song shall be,
o - ver me, My rest a stone; Yet in my dreams I'd be
send - est me, In mer - cy giv'n: An - gels to beck - on me,
ston - y griefs Beth - el I'll raise; So by my woes to be
stars for - got, Up - ward I fly, Still all my song shall be,



Near - er, my God, to Thee, Near - er, my God, to Thee, Near - er to Thee!

Nearer, My God, to Thee

1840

It was reported that the band aboard the *Titanic* gallantly played “Nearer, My God, to Thee” as the great liner sank to its watery grave on April 14, 1912. A Canadian survivor told of being comforted by its strains. Historians, however, have never been able to nail down the validity of the story.

Never mind. It’s a great hymn anyway, written by a woman named Sarah Flower Adam. She was born in Harlow, England, in the winter of 1805. Her father was a newspaper editor and a man of prominence.

Sarah herself grew up enjoying the spotlight. She showed great interest in the stage and dreamed of being an actress. In 1834, she married William Bridges Adams, a civil engineer. The couple lived in London where Sarah could be near the great theaters. In 1837, she played “Lady McBeth” in the Richmond Theater in London to rave reviews.

Her frail health hampered her career, however, she found herself focusing more on her literary gifts. Its said that she wrote quickly, as if under compulsion; and seldom did editors find anything to change in her work. Among her compositions were hymns

of praise to the Lord. Sarah’s sister, Eliza, a gifted musician, often wrote the music for her hymns. The two were very close.

One day in 1841, their pastor, Rev. William Johnson Fox of London’s South Place Unitarian Church, paid a visit. He was compiling a church hymnbook and wanted to include some of their hymns. He further mentioned that he was frustrated at his inability to find a hymn to go along with the upcoming Sunday’s message, which was from the story of Jacob at Bethel in Genesis 28:20-22.

Sarah offered to write a hymn based on those verses. For the rest of the week she poured over the passage, visualizing Jacob’s sleeping with a stone for his pillow as he dreamed of a ladder reaching to heaven. The following Sunday, South Place Unitarian Church sang Sarah’s “Nearer, My God, to Thee.”

Eliza, who was suffering from tuberculosis, died in 1846. Sarah had faithfully cared for her sister during her illness, but by the time Eliza died, Sarah, too was showing signs of consumption.

She passed on August 14 1848, at age 43.

Taken from the book “Then Sings My Soul” By Robert J. Morgan