

# *The Simeon Spirit*

## **SIMEON UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH**



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

**June 2022**

PO Box 478  
Gratz, PA 17030

*Celebrating Our Faith*

Pastor Gregory Lindsey  
Church: (717) 365-3139  
Cell: (717) 521-9402

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### **Sinners in the Hands of a Loving God**

In seminary, we were required to read Jonathan Edwards's sermon, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God." I recall some of my fellow seminarians being impressed with the piece, but I found the work repugnant. Preached to Edward's congregation in Enfield, Massachusetts on July 8, 1741, it has been hailed by experts both within the church and outside as a magnificent example of 18<sup>th</sup> century rhetoric and imagery. In fact, I recall it being included in my 11<sup>th</sup> grade English book on American Literature. Something which would never happen today.

It may be a fine piece of persuasive literature. Yet it was its message that I found so disturbing. Below is a short excerpt.

(The God that holds you over the pit of hell, much as one holds a spider, or some loathsome insect over the fire, abhors you, and is dreadfully provoked: his wrath towards you burns like fire; he looks upon you as worthy of nothing else, but to be cast into the fire; he is of purer eyes than to bear to have you in his sight; you are ten thousand times more abominable in his eyes, than the most hateful venomous serpent is in ours.)

It's true that in the first section Edwards directs his fury at 'sinners' and the 'wicked'. But cleverly the focus shifts towards his listeners (you). Tellingly, in a sermon which is 7,166 words long, the word grace appears only once, gospel never, and love only twice when it refers to God. In comparison, the word 'hell' appears 47 times.

Why should we care about this hour and a half long sermon which this arrogant man inflected upon his poor puritan congregation so long ago on a hot July day? We may add seasonally it was 'hot as hell', if you would excuse the expression.

Whether this is read in its historical context or as a theology which still exists in the pulpits today, I believe it represents bad theology, and an example how a minister can use threats and fear to manipulate his congregation. I believe also just for his or her own ego. I am sure Edwards was quite proud of himself as he left his congregation smoldering in the ashes of his wonderful rhetoric.

As Lutherans and Christians, we are all theologians. Our theology is reflected in what we believe about God and scripture. And we should be able to discern the difference between good theology and bad theology. A good theology comes from a firm and thoughtful understanding of scripture and how the Gospel of Jesus Christ is God's ultimate revelation to the world. Bad theology uses only selective passages of the bible which fit the cause and adds statements claimed as truth which have no basis upon the word of God. Jesus criticized the Pharisees for doing the same, "This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines." (Matthew 15:8,9)

My biggest issue with "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God", is that it portrays the primary nature of God as one of wrath who seems indifferent to the fate of his people. Is this same God whom Jesus taught about? The shepherd who left the 99 to search for the one. Could Edwards not have found more room for hope and the promise of grace for even the sinful, which in a great and honest irony he was one also? Over seven thousand words of threats, and little hope.

We joke about 'Hell and Brimstone' preaching, but that message is still pushed upon us by those who question our salvation because we are not of their faith. Messages which come through road signs, pamphlets left on our windshields, and the internet that attempt to make us doubt our relationship with Christ and our salvation.

I have attended funerals where to my amazement the minister used the opportunity to push his formula for salvation upon the audience. I once attended the funeral for a friend of mine from college who died in a hit and run, where the preacher called in question the salvation of my friend because he wasn't convinced that he had done what was necessary to be right with Christ. If that would happen today, I would storm the pulpit with some words of my own on the arrogance of this ignorant man making such a judgment. Bad theology + Self Serving Intentions = Bad Preaching.

I am proud of our faith tradition. It had its founding from a man who knew the unnecessary suffering which comes from bad theology. Martin Luther made it his mission to seek the truth, proclaim it to the world, and many have followed him. It's a good time to reconnect with our roots. I suggest reading the Book of Romans which was Luther's inspiration.

We have a good and loving God. While our sins may disappoint God, God never gives up on us. And he sent his beloved Son, Jesus, so that we would know the truth. And the truth matters!

Faithfully Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Greg*

### **CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FROM MAY 2022**

1. **Worship and Music** – Radio Programs Being Repeated. Looking into why????
2. **Parish Education**- BIBLE SCHOOL will be held at Gratz park June 13-17 from 9-11
3. **Stewardship and Evangelism** – July 23 Volleyball tournament
4. **Social Ministry** – None.
5. **Youth** – Working on some projects.
6. **Church Property** – Discussion on outside kitchen door entrance.
7. **Budget and Finance** - None.
8. **Fellowship** – June 12, 2022, breakfast brunch.
9. **Mutual Ministry** – None.

**The Pastor's Time** – Attending Synod assembly June 3&4. Made a Motion to confirm Dakota Boyer & Ethan Roe June 5<sup>th</sup> on Pentecost Sunday. Seconded by Darlene Novinger. Visiting Shut-ins and Sick.

### **2022 GIVING**

\$44,856.87

### **2022 EXPENSES**

\$48,696.65

**Difference between YTD Giving & YTD Expenses (\$ -3,839.78)  
{For General Operating Fund}**

## **“VOICE OF SIMEON” RADIO MINISTRY SPONSORS**

### **JUNE 2022**

**June 5** – Buffington/Reed Funeral Home

**June 12** – Willing Workers

**June 19** – Hoffman’s Hatchery

**June 26** – James A Reed Funeral Home

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 July-Sept. 2022 will soon be available in the narthex. Pick yours up or have someone get them for you.

### **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**

#### **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 (FOR JULY/AUG.)**

**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**

#### **July**

**Sunday, July 3** - Worship Service/ Holy Communion

**Monday July 4 – INDEPENDENCE DAY**

**Saturday, July 9** - Food Bank Open 9-11am

**Sunday, July 10** - Worship Service

**Sunday, July 17** - Worship Service

**Saturday, July 23** – Volleyball Tournament

**Sunday, July 24** - Worship Service

**Sunday, July 31** - Worship Service

### **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.**

## **SERVING IN JUNE & JULY**

**JUNE 5, 2022**  
**DAY OF PENTECOST**  
***HOLY COMMUNION***

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

**JUNE 12, 2022**  
**HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY**

GREETER: Virginia Moore  
READER: Sharon Erdman

**JUNE 19, 2022**  
**2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY AFTER**  
**PENTECOST**

GREETER: Doris Flynn  
READER: Jean Perkins

**JUNE 26, 2022**  
**3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY AFTER**  
**PENTECOST**

GREETER: Matt Ferster  
READER: Dennis Barge

**JULY 3, 2022**  
**4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER**  
**PENTECOST WITH**  
***HOLY COMMUNION***

GREETER: John Novinger  
READER: Steve Welker  
USHER: Mike Hartman  
GLASSES: Linda Koppenhaver  
ALTAR: Dennis Barge

**JULY 10, 2022**  
**5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER**  
**PENTECOST**

GREETER: Leah Schade  
READER: Jenny Sracic

**JULY 17, 2022**  
**6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER**  
**PENTECOST**

GREETER: Mike Hartman  
READER: Mike Hartman

**JULY 24, 2022**  
**7<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER**  
**PENTECOST**

GREETER: Remington Schlegel  
READER: John Novinger

**JULY 31, 2022**  
**8<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER**  
**PENTECOST**

GREETER: Cameron Smeltz  
READER: Virginia Moore

## **PRAYER LIST AT THIS TIME:**

**Prayers requested for:** Daniel & Susan Ferster, Sally Hepler, Celin Sitlinger, Clair & Vivian Engle, Jean Hess, David Hartman, Jim Neiswender, Isaiah Daniel, Kenneth Mace, Steve Dagen, Rahn Erdman, Marie Lahr, Christy Warfel

**Polk Apartments:** Helen Michael, John Kissinger

**Mt. Carmel Nursing & Rehab:** Ruby Leitzel

**Nottingham Village Skilled Care Nursing Center:** Lila Welker

**Premier at Susquehanna Village:** Bonnie Miller

# Music Notes

## Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine



1. Bless - ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! Oh, what a  
 2. Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de - light, vi - sions of  
 3. Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest, I in my

fore - taste of glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of  
 rap - ture now burst on my sight: an - gels de - scend - ing bring from a -  
 Sav - ior am hap - py and blest: watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a -

God, born of His Spir - it, washed in His blood.  
 bove, ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.  
 bove, filled with His good - ness, lost in His love.

This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long;

this is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

WORDS: Fanny J. Crosby, 1873  
 MUSIC: Phoebe Palmer Knapp, 1873

ASSURANCE  
 9.10.9.9 with refrain

## Blessed Assurance 1873

Fanny Ridley Havergal and Frances (Fanny) Crosby never met, but they became dear pen pals—the two most famous women hymnists of their age, the former in England and the latter in America. Havergal once wrote a poem about her American counterpart.

*Sweet, blind singer over the sea, / Tuneful and Jubilant! How can it be, / That the songs of gladness, which float so far, / As if they fell from evening star / Are the notes of one who may never see / 'Visible music' of flower and tree..... / Oh, her heart can see, her heart can see! / And its sight is strong and swift and free.....*

Another of Fanny's dearest friends was Phoebe Knapp. While Fanny lived in the Manhattan slums and worked in rescue missions, Phoebe lived in the Knapp Mansion, a palatial residence in Brooklyn, where she entertained lavishly. She was an extravagant dresser with a wardrobe full of elaborate gowns and diamond tiaras. Her music room contained one of the finest collections of instruments in the country, and Fanny was a frequent houseguest.

One day in 1873, while Fanny was staying at the Knapp Mansion, Phoebe said she had a tune she wanted to play. Going to the music room, she

sat at the piano and played a new composition of her own while the blind hymnist listened. Fanny immediately clapped her hands and exclaimed, "Why, that says, 'Blessed Assurance!'" She quickly composed the words, and a great hymn was born.

Many years later, D.L. Moody was preaching in New York at the 23<sup>rd</sup> street Dutch Reformed Church. The Moody/Sankey Meetings had popularized Fanny Crosby's hymns around the world and had made the blind poetess a household name. But whenever she attended a Moody/Sankey meeting, she refused to be recognized, disavowing acclaim.

This day the church was so crowded she could find nowhere to sit. Moody's son, Will, seeing her, offered to find her a seat. To her bewilderment, he led her onto the platform just as the crowd was singing "Blessed Assurance." Moody Sr., jumped to his feet, raised his hand, and interrupted the singing. "Praise the Lord!" he shouted "Here comes the authoress!"

Fanny took her seat amid thunderous ovation, humbly thanking God for making her a blessing to so many.

*Taken from the book "Then Sings My Soul" By Robert J. Morgan*

# Chefs Corner



## Cheeseburger Pie

1(9inch) pie crust  
1lb. ground beef  
1tsp. salt  
½ tsp. oregano  
½ cup chili sauce

½ cup dry breadcrumbs  
1(8oz) can tomato sauce  
½ cup chopped onions & Peppers  
¼ tsp. pepper

## Topping

1 egg  
¼ cup milk  
½ tsp. salt

½ tsp. dry mustard  
½ tsp. Worcestershire sauce  
2 cup shredded cheddar cheese

Heat oven to 350\* and bake shell for 15 minutes. In medium skillet brown ground beef and then add onions and peppers till soft. Stir in salt, oregano, pepper, crumbs, and ½ the tomato sauce. Mix well and heat till warm. Mix topping together. Pour meat mixture into pie crust and top with the topping. Bake for 45 minutes, or till hot and bubbly. Heat remaining tomato sauce and chili sauce together and serve with the pie.

## Butterfinger Bars

1 cup brown sugar  
½ cup white sugar  
1 cup margarine  
4 cup quick oatmeal

6 oz. chocolate chips  
1 cup creamy peanut butter  
1tsp. vanilla

Mix sugars, margarine, and quick oatmeal together and press into a 9x13inch pan. Bake at 350\* for 15 minutes. Melt chocolate chips, then add peanut butter and add flavoring and mix well. Spread over the bars when done and let cool.

## Frozen Fruit Salad

1 can peaches  
1 can pineapple  
1 can mandarin oranges  
1 jar maraschino cherries

1 pkg. mini marshmallows  
12oz. cool whip  
1 large box vanilla cook pudding  
nuts (optional)

Drain fruit and reserve 1½ cups. Cook pudding using box directions and fruit juice as ½ the liquid until thick. Add marshmallows. Cool and add fruit, nuts, and cool whip. Freeze until ready to serve.



# Simeon United Lutheran Church

1822 to 2022 – Celebrating 200 Years of Ministry

P.O. Box 478 / Gratz, PA 17030

Pastor Gregory Lindsey

Church: (717)365-3139

## AN INVITATION TO TELL THE STORY

As part of our bicentennial celebration at Simeon, we are making a collection of memories and stories people have of their life and times at Simeon United. Childhood and youth memories, weddings, special services and traditions, holiday memories, family recollections, humorous stories are just some of what we would like to hear. Plans are to have this collection bound into a booklet so they can be shared with everyone.

Please feel free to write on this flyer, add additional papers, or include news clippings, pictures, or other items to help to tell the story. If you would prefer to tell the story verbally, please let Tracy Bixler (570-449-3532) know, and she will be glad to write it down for you. Thanks for making this a special and memorable celebration.

NAME

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Please return this in an envelope in the offering plate or to the address above!

## My Reading Rambles

by Barbara Klinger

Did you know that the Bible has a number of remezes tucked away in it? Some people believe there are. According to my research on the internet, a remez is a Hebrew word meaning “hint” used in reference to typological or allegorical interpretations in Jewish hermeneutics (interpretation of scripture). A remez reveals a hidden message or a deeper meaning that’s found below the surface or behind the words. I became aware of one of these recently and I just had to research it more so I could share it and see what you think.

The Old Testament Book of Numbers, Chapter 2 provides God’s instructions to Moses and Aaron of how the Israelites were to be arranged when encamped and the order to march when on the move. A key piece of this remez hidden in Numbers, Chapter 2 requires that you keep in mind that God directed Moses to take a census of the whole congregation of Israelites, by their families, by their fathers, according to the number of names of every male individually who is able to go to war, from twenty years old and above. Moses and Aaron were to conduct a census of these men and form them into armies based on their ancestral fathers, or the 12 sons of Jacob (whom God renamed Israel).

I will let you read for yourself the full detailed account of God’s arrangement of the 12 tribes of Israel around the Tabernacle and the marching order of armies of the Israelites in Numbers, Chapter 2. Instead, I will give a synopsis of it to show what some believe is hidden in this encampment arrangement as instructed by God.

You may remember from the book of Exodus, that in the wilderness, God led the ancient Israelites as a cloud by day and fire by night. When the cloud or fire moved, they moved, and when the cloud or fire came to rest, they pitched their tents around the Tabernacle and rested, all in accordance with God’s designated pattern as written in Numbers, Chapter 2.

On the East side of the Tabernacle facing the rising sun was first to be those of the tribe of Judah, whose army numbered 74,600. Next to the tribe of Judah were the tribe of Issachar, whose army numbered 54,400, and then the tribe of Zebulun, whose army numbered 57,400. These three tribes are referred to in Numbers, Chapter 2 as the camp and armies of Judah and totaled 186,400 men. They were to set out or break camp first when they marched.

On the South side of the Tabernacle was first to be those of the tribe of Reuben, whose army numbered 46,500. Those to camp next to the tribe of Reuben were to be of the tribe of Simeon, whose army numbered 59,300, and next was to be those of the tribe of Gad, whose army numbered 45,650. These three tribes are referred to as the camp and armies of Reuben and totaled 151,450. They were to set out to march second.

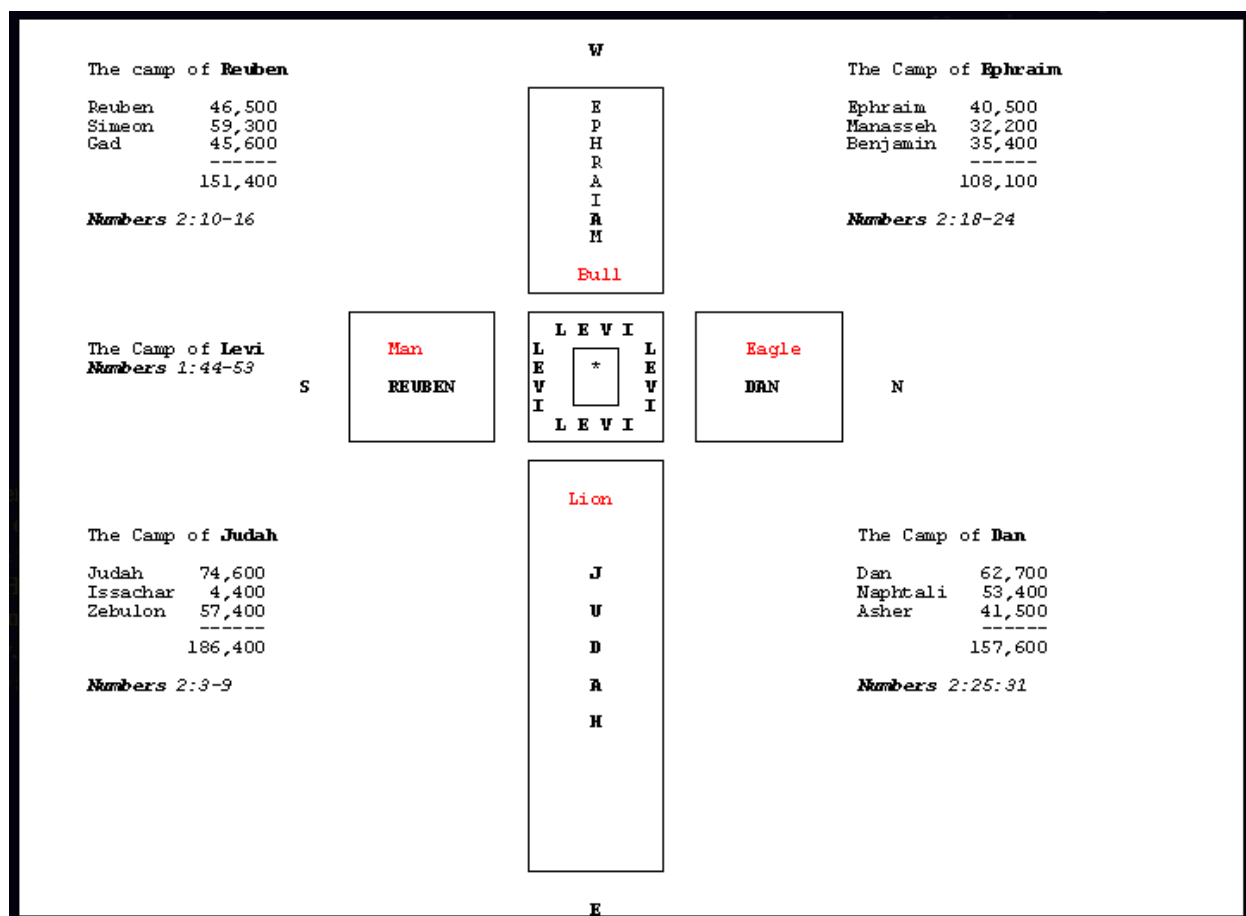
Those of the tribe of Levi, who were the tribe from which all of the priests came and were appointed by God to oversee the Tabernacle and all of its furnishings and all things that belong to it. God also appointed the Levites to tear it down and carry it and all of its furnishings when on the move, and to set it up when they stopped to camp. The tribe of Levi was to be arranged in the Center around the Tabernacle. The Levites, as God instructed Moses, were not numbered among the children of Israel and were to set out as they camped, in the center of all of the



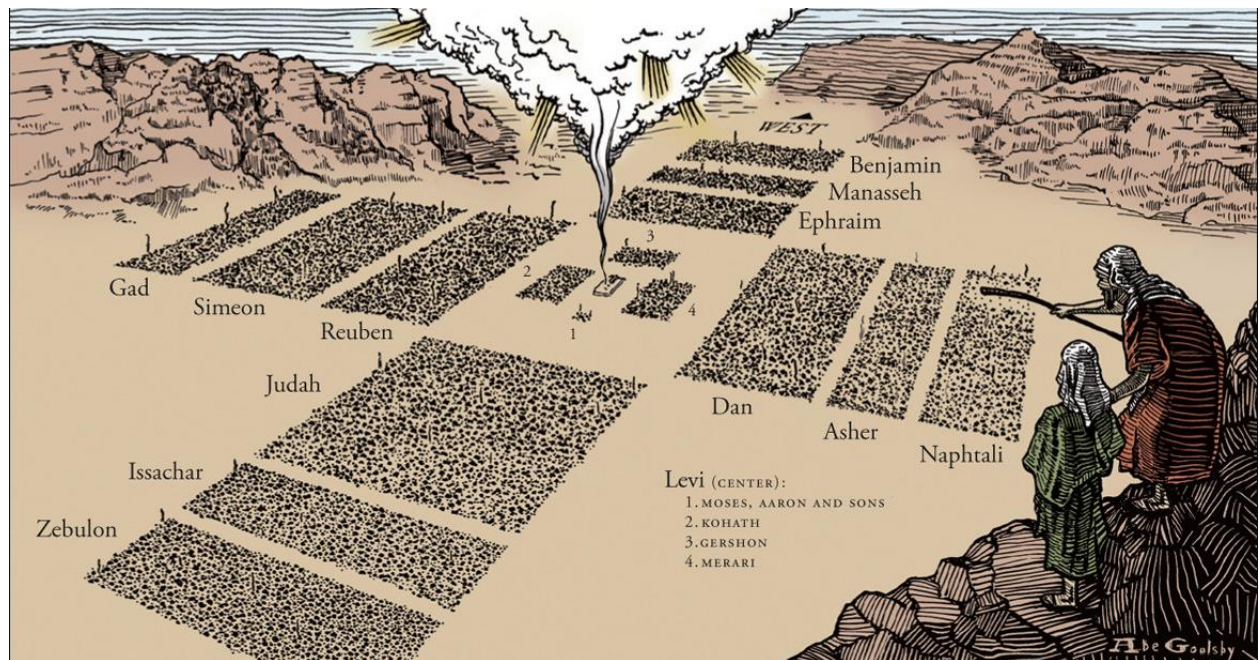
tribes/armies. Locating the Tabernacle in the center for camping and marching also is interpreted as the Israelites keeping God in the center of all things, just as we are to do.

The West side of the Tabernacle was to first have the tribe of Ephraim, whose army numbered 40,500. Next was to be the tribe of Manasseh, whose army numbered 32,200, and then next was to be the tribe of Benjamin, whose army numbered 35,400. These three tribes are referred to as the camp and armies of Ephraim and numbered a total of 108,100. They were to set out on the march third.

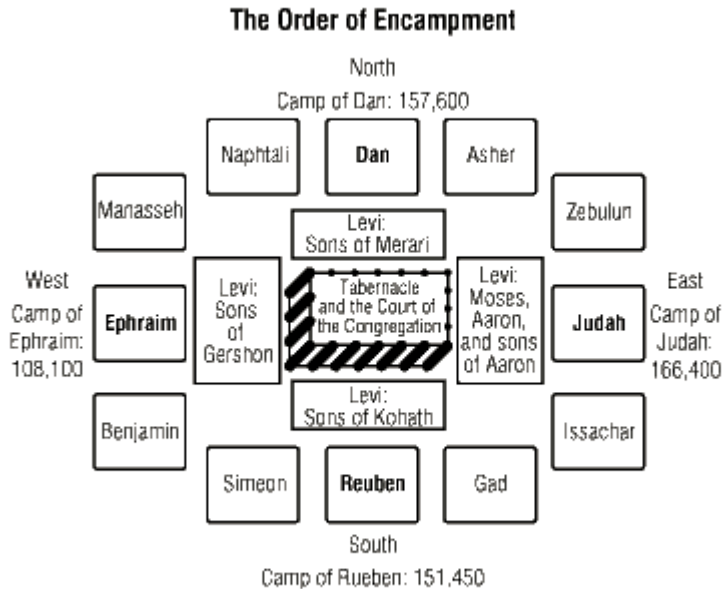
The tribe of Dan was to be the first on the North side of the Tabernacle. The army of Dan numbered 62,700. Next was to be the tribe of Asher, whose army numbered 41,500 and then the tribe of Naphtali, whose army numbered 53,400. The total of these three tribes referred to as the camp and armies of Dan was 157,600, and they were to set out last.



This arrangement in just written form does not take on much meaning for the typical reader. However, God knows that man is very visual. Therefore, God has graciously given us a pattern to help us see and understand what He wants us to know. If you look at a diagram of the arrangement of the 12 tribes/armies as prescribed by God and according to the size of each tribe/army, it forms something I think we all recognize.



I want to also say that this is the interpretation that some people believe, but not everyone interprets it like this. Some believe the arrangement to be of more like two circles formed around the Tabernacle. The central circle being made up of the Levites, and the outer circle arranged with the 12 tribes per God's instruction.

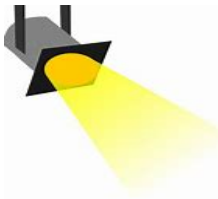


I do believe that God instructed the writing of this specific detailed information for a reason and there seems to be a message he is sending through it. I have to wonder if this really is a remez and includes something more than a military formation. Perhaps

another prophecy of Jesus just as some believe? I am curious to hear what your thoughts are on this remez in Numbers, Chapter 2.

### **Christmas In July**

We will be celebrating Christmas in July again. We will be collecting toys and monetary donations for the Upper Dauphin Human Services in Lykens the whole month of July. A box will be in the narthex to put the toys in and a smaller box for monetary donations. The last Sunday in July we will bless the toys.



## **Youth Spotlight**

CONGRATULATIONS to Andrew Romberger for his impressive performance on the NOCTI exam! Pronounced "knock-tea", the NOCTI® is an exam that takes its name from the acronym for National Occupational Competency Testing Institute. The exam serves as an end-of-program assessment for high school seniors who have completed career and technical programs like the Diversified Occupations II (Co-op) program at UDAHS. Career and technical schools and high schools offering Diversified Occupations across Pennsylvania and around the country administer the exam, 21st Century Skills for Workplace Success.



Andrew was one of the 16 "Co-op" seniors who took the exam this spring. He not only performed well, he also scored above the national average AND he will automatically receive a College Credit Recommendation Report with his scoring package. The report can be presented at more than 1,500 participating colleges and universities for credit consideration.

Andrew is also an active member of our church, serving on the Radio Ministry Committee, the Choir and is also a member of our Youth Group. What a fine young man he is!



## **JUNE FELLOWSHIP- June 12th**

Please join us after church on June 12<sup>th</sup> for a meal consisting of breakfast/brunch dishes. Bring your favorite breakfast casserole, pastries, etc. to share. We moved our Bingo plans to August 14<sup>th</sup> at Knoebel's. Watch the bulletin and newsletter for future details.

## **RUMMAGE/SOUP REPORT**

The Fellowship Committee held this fundraiser in mid-May. Thanks to all the volunteers, Tracy Bixler, Sharon Erdman, Jason Dively, Edna Ferster, Matthew Ferster, Brenda Flynn, Peggy & Raymond Hartman, Crystal Keys, Sandra Matter, Virginia Moore, Darlene and John Novinger, Jean Perkins, and Dennis & Susan Krause for making this event such a huge success.



We hosted a blowout sale on May 20<sup>th</sup>, but the newsletter is going to press before I can mention those volunteers by name so all in all a LOT of congregants pitched in to make this such a success. In addition to the volunteers, we want to thank all those who generously gave donations. A special thank you goes out to Thrivent who helped to underwrite the soup supplies. And of course, thanks to all those who came out and BOUGHT.





## HOMETOWN HEROS

We had a CATastrophe with a kitten stuck in one of our shopper's cars. Ironically, the first couple that showed up to help worked with cat rescues and had gloves and other paraphernalia. But apparently, we had to call in the troops (Randy Bellon and Jason Dively) along with some others. Jason is pictured here – Randy was unavailable.' The shopper said the only place she could have picked it up was at Jean Perkins house so she said on her way home she'd stick it in Jean's mailbox so Jean you may want to check that when you get home.



## PROM PICTURES

Some of our youth who went to the prom.  
They clean up pretty well, don't they?

