

The Simeon Spirit

SIMEON UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

September 2022

Celebrating Our Faith

Pastor Gregory Lindsey

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Making a Choice for God

As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord
Joshua 24:15b

I have often seen this short verse from Joshua in one of those store-bought framed signs with something like a picture of a house, or in one of those do it yourself embroidered crafts. They usually do well in the front room near your entrance way or in the kitchen.

It is just a small part of much larger message, but it says a lot. The situation is the Israelites are on the very borders of Canaan ready to take the land promised so long ago to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Much had happened over the last forty years. The current generation's parents had witnessed how with great power and miracles God had freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. They had seen the thunder and lightning upon Mount Sinai as Moses received the law from God.

God brought the Israelites within sight of this land of milk and honey. But they rebelled, and for their lack of trust in God, he banished that whole generation to wander in the wilderness until the last rebel perished leaving only their children to fulfill God's promise to their ancestors.

You might think that this new generation of Israelites, refined and tested, after years of sojourning the desert, would be fresh and ready. Yet in Joshua, we learn that this Hebrew Generation X was still dragging along with them the old gods from Egypt, strange gods from regions far to the east, and had already taken a liking to the new gods of the land they were entering. It seems they had learned little, and this excess baggage was weighing them down.

So, Joshua gave them a choice. Put away these false idols and serve the Living God, or they will suffer the same consequences as their stubborn mothers and fathers. They made the right choice: "Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God."

As summertime comes to an end, the pace and rhythm of life changes. Kids go back to school and our summer vacation adventures are left as memories and pictures on Facebook.

The life of the church also picks up this time of the year. I would be remiss to not say that attendance at Sunday school has been discouraging. Some mornings we have had no children at all, and only a couple of youth. Whole families seemed to have disappear from worship, and few or no children or youth attend worship these days.

What's keeping you from making the life of the church an essential part of your life? We all carry baggage which weighs us down and distracts us from living the fullness of a life God wants for us. Be free of the false idols of today's world of busyness and material worship. Joshua's voice comes to us today: "Choose whom you will serve." God calls us to his house, so he can share his presence with us as we share in the fellowship with each other. Parents, please bring your children. We have missed them, and please stay a while. We have missed you also. What could be more important than enriching our children and our own lives in the spiritual wisdom, healing, and life we find in Jesus Christ. As for our house, we will serve the Lord, for he is our God.

Your Servant in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Greg

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FROM AUGUST, 2022

1. **Worship and Music** – Tabled discussion regarding the number of hymns for the church service.
 2. **Parish Education**- Rally Day is September 4, 2022.
 3. **Stewardship and Evangelism** - Had a great turnout for the Family Fun Day held July 24, 2022. Jean Perkins and Ruth Sitlinger are working on a house tour for Christmas. The next Bicentennial meeting will be on Monday, August 29, 2022.
 4. **Social Ministry** – NONE.
 5. **Youth** – Successful trip to Camp Nawakwa. Pastor Greg and 4 youth attended. Youth would like to go white water rafting.
 6. **Church Property** –John Novinger has picked-up the silicone to silicone the bricks on a Saturday in September. Matthew Ferster is working on the chair tree to hold the new chairs. Lift was inspected this week by the Department of Labor and Industry.
 7. **Budget and Finance** - NONE.
 8. **Fellowship** – Picnic at Knoebel's was on August 14, 2022. 26 people attended. Next event will be on October 9, 2022.
 9. **Mutual Ministry** – None.
- New Business** – NONE.
- The Pastor's Time** – Getting caught up on visitations. Packing school packets on September 18, 2022. Our church supplied scissors.

2022 GIVING

\$76,443.75

2022 EXPENSES

\$84,916.73

**Difference between YTD Giving & YTD Expenses (\$ -8,472.98)
{For General Operating Fund}**

PRAYER LIST AT THIS TIME:

Prayers requested for: Goldine Hepler, Clair & Vivian Engle, Jean Hess, David Hartman, Jim Neiswender, Isaiah Daniel, Kenneth Mace, JoEllen Fetterolf, Shane Schadle, Steve Dagen, Susan Ferster, 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

“VOICE OF SIMEON” RADIO MINISTRY SPONSORS

September 2022

September 4 – Buffington/Reed Funeral Home

September 11– Willing Workers

September 18 –

September 25 – Sunset View Contractors LLC.

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 are 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.

THE 2022 FLOWER & BULLETIN SPONSOR CHARTS

still have some openings. Please help by sponsoring them. ***If no one sponsors them the money comes out of the general fund which is not budgeted.***

UPCOMING EVENTS:

September

Sunday, Sept. 4- Worship Service/ Holy Communion

Monday, Sept. 5- Labor Day

Saturday, Sept. 10- Food Bank Open 9-11am

Sunday, Sept. 11- Patriot Day / Worship Service

Thursday, Sept. 15- Council Meeting 7pm

Friday, Sept. 16- Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, Sept. 18- Worship Service

*****GRATZ FAIR WEEK SEPT. 18 -24*****

Thursday, Sept. 22- First Day of Autumn

Sunday, Sept. 25- Worship Service

October

Sunday, Oct. 2- Worship Service/ Holy Communion

Saturday, Oct. 8- Food Bank Open 9-11am

Sunday, Oct. 9- Worship Service/ Harvest Sunday/ Fellowship w/ Comfort Foods

Monday, Oct. 10- Columbus Day

Sunday, Oct. 16- Worship Service/ Healing Service

Monday, Oct. 17- National Boss Day

Thursday, Oct. 20- Council Meeting 7pm

Friday, Oct. 21- Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, Oct. 23- Worship Service

Sunday, Oct. 30- Reformation Sunday/ Holy Communion

SERVING IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

SEPTEMBER 4, 2022
13th SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST WITH
HOLY COMMUNION

GREETER: Matt Ferster
READER: Sharon Erdman
USHER: Bill Reed
GLASSES: Anna Coleman
ALTAR: John Novinger

SEPTEMBER 11, 2022
14th SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST

GREETER: John Novinger
READER: Jean Perkins

SEPTEMBER 18, 2022
15th SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST

GREETER: Leah Schade
READER: Dennis Barge

SEPTEMBER 25, 2022
16th SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST

GREETER: Mike Hartman
READER: Steve Welker

OCTOBER 2, 2022
17th SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST WITH
HOLY COMMUNION,
RALLY DAY

GREETER: Remington Schlegel
READER: Jenny Sracic
USHER: Mike Hartman
GLASSES: Minerva Neagley
ALTAR: Dennis Barge

OCTOBER 9, 2022
18th SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST

GREETER: Cameron Smeltz
READER: Mike Hartman

OCTOBER 16, 2022
19th SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST

GREETER: Darlene Novinger
READER: John Novinger

OCTOBER 23, 2022
20th SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST

GREETER: Dave Strohecker
READER: Virginia Moore

OCTOBER 30, 2022
21ST SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST,
REFORMATION SUNDAY
w/ HOLY COMMUNION

GREETER: Virginia Moore
READER: Ashley Welker
USHER: Matt Ferster
GLASSES: Jessica Sitlinger
ALTAR: John Novinger

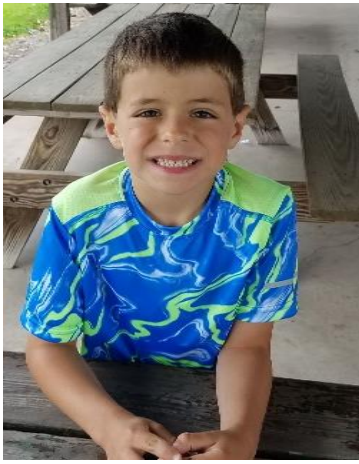
BIBLE SCHOOL NEWS!

The Bible School volunteers reported a total of 34 children attended the week long event. One of them even asked if they could do it again the following week! The theme was food truck and the event concluded with singing and eating hot dogs and ice cream.



Thanks to the volunteers:

Jean Perkins, Lisa Perkins, Tracy Bixler, Sharon Erdman, Sharon Hartman, Becky Hoover, Pastor Lindsey, Sandra Matter, And Laurie Little.



July 23rd – Community Event in the Park

All reports indicated the volleyball and other games were a success. Thanks to all the volunteers who participated in this event. We also heard the petting zoo was popular although rumors were that several church members tried to smuggle the baby animals home and one member has to be restrained from emptying the cooler so she could cool off on the ice. She denied it but the proof is in the picture!



Annual church picnic – August 14 at Knoebel's



We couldn't have asked for better weather. The spot we got was spacious and breezy! (I think I got pictures of everyone but if I missed you – sorry!)





Music Notes



Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou My Vision 8th Century

Only one missionary is honored with a global holiday, and only one is known by his own distinct color of green-St. Patrick, of course, missionary to Ireland.

Patrick was born in A.D. 373, along the banks of the River Clyde in what is now called Scotland. His father was a deacon, and his grandfather a priest. When Patrick was about 16, raiders descended on his little town and torched his home. When one of the pirates spotted him in the bushes, he was seized hauled aboard ship, and taken to Ireland as a slave. There he gave his life to the Lord Jesus.

“The Lord opened my mind to an awareness of my unbelief,” he later wrote, “in order that I might remember my transgressions and turn with all my heart to the Lord my God.”

Patrick eventually escaped and returned home. His overjoyed family begged him to never leave again. But one night, in a dream reminiscent of Paul’s vision of the Macedonian Man in Acts 16, Patrick saw an Irishman pleading with him to come evangelize Ireland.

It wasn’t an easy decision, but Patrick, about 30, returned to his former captors with only one book, the Latin Bible, in his hand. Druids opposed him and sought his death. But his preaching was powerful, and Patrick became one of the most

fruitful evangelists of all time, planting about 200 churches and baptizing 100,000 converts.

His work endured, and several centuries later, the Irish church was still producing hymns, prayers, sermons and songs of worship. In the eighth century, an unknown poet wrote a prayer asking God to be his vision, His wisdom, and his Best Thought by day and night.

In 1905, Mary Elizabeth Byrne, a scholar in Dublin, Ireland, translated this ancient Irish poem into English. Another scholar, Eleanor Hull of Manchester, England, took Byrne’s translation and crafted it into verses with rhyme and meter. Shortly thereafter it was set to a traditional Irish folk song, “Slane,” named for an area in Ireland where Patrick reportedly challenged local Druids with the gospel.

It is one of our oldest and most moving hymns:

*Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me save that Thou art.
Thou my best thought by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.*

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

Chefs Corner



Peach Cobbler

1(16oz) can peach slices
1 cup flour
1 cup sugar + ¼ cup
Dash salt

1 cup milk
2tsp. baking powder
1 stick butter

Preheat oven to 400*. In a medium saucepan over medium heat, cook peaches until boiling. Set aside. In a medium mixing bowl, combine flour, milk, 1cup sugar, baking powder, & salt. In a 2-quart baking dish, melt butter. Pour batter over butter, then top with peaches and do not stir. Sprinkle ¼ cup sugar over the top. Bake at 400* for 20-30 minutes. Serve warm with ice cream or whipped topping.

Norwegian Pancakes

3 eggs
1 cup sugar
¼ tsp. salt
1 tsp. grated lemon rind

1 cup milk
½ cup melted butter
1 cup flour

Beat eggs until light in a large mixer bowl (about 3 minutes). Add remaining ingredients in order given. Heat a non-stick skillet or crepe pan. Pour in a ¼ cup of batter covering the bottom of pan. When pancake begins to lose its gloss and turns light brown on the bottom, loosen sides and turn. When light brown on second side, fold into fourths and serve. (These are very sweet and rich and very much like a crepe. Serve with a little fresh lemon juice squeezed over them.)

Mexican Meatloaf

1 lb. hamburger
1 cup fresh bread crumbs
1 egg
1 Tbsp. green chilies

1cup salsa
½ cup chopped onion
3Tbsp taco seasoning

Preheat oven to 350*. Mix all ingredients together and place in a baking dish. Bake at 350* for about 1 hour or until juices are clear. Serve with salsa and sour cream.

Rhubarb Jelly

4 cup rhubarb (cut-up)
1Tbsp. cinnamon
5 ½ cup sugar

1tsp. cloves
1 pkg. sure-jell

Mix all together but sugar and bring to a hard boil. Add sugar and boil for 3 minutes, stirring constantly so mixture won't stick. Put in jars and seal. (if a more red color is desired you can add food color).