

The Simeon Spirit
SIMEON UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gratz, PA

April 2024

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Welcome Home

Today I was reading an online article from Peter Robinson in Ricochet magazine about Hubert Humphrey. Humphrey was a renown U.S. statesmen and previous vice president under Lyndon B. Johnson. Humphrey was lying on his death bed from terminal cancer and insisted he must make one more call before this death. Who did he call? None other than his past rival Richard Nixon. Nixon had beaten Humphrey for the office of President of the United States years before. Humphrey called Nixon, and asked him to attend his funeral. A somewhat odd request, but for Richard Nixon who was deep in the disgrace of Watergate and his fall from grace as president, it was a moment of grace.

I was reminded of an article from Newsweek magazine some time ago. Nixon had indeed attended the funeral. Back in Washington for the first time since his resignation and at the memorial service that followed, the once commander and chief of the greatest nation on earth was alone and ostracized. Shunned and ignored by virginally everyone, Nixon found himself the object of shame.

Then a very special thing happened, perhaps the only thing that could have made a difference and broken the ice. President Jimmy Carter, who was in the White House at that time, came into the room. Before he was seated, he saw Nixon over against the wall, all by himself. He went over to him as though he were greeting a family member, stuck out his hand to the former president, and smiled broadly. To the surprise of everyone there, the two of them embraced each other, and Carter said, "Welcome home, Mr. President! Welcome home!" One president to another, from different parties, they understood what they had in common, what burdens they had born in common; they were elected presidents.

Commenting on that, Newsweek magazine observed, "If there was a turning point in Nixon's long ordeal in the wilderness, it was that moment and that gesture of love and compassion."

When I read this account, I immediately thought of the Apostle Peter. Peter hailed as the rock upon which Jesus would built his church. Peter who was bold enough to walk to Jesus upon the water. Peter the confessor, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

Peter, who vowed that he would die before he would desert Jesus. The same Peter who swore a curse that he didn't even knew the man.

But Peter's betrayal was never mentioned again. Jesus upon finding Peter after the resurrection simply said, "Peace be with you." All of the disciples had deserted Jesus. Yet none of that mattered anymore. The cross had changed everything. It was the turning point that lifts those burdens of life which weight us down.

We all have times when our failures and betrayals weight heavy on our souls. 'Peace be with you', Jesus says to us. "Welcome home."

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Greg



CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARCH, 2024

OLD BUSINESS: Discussion held on the funding of the Proposed Organ renovation with the information from Budget & Finance. Money in organ fund/ designated to organ fund is ruffly \$18,500.00, Money from memorial funds to use would be ruffly another \$30,000.00. We will need to raise another \$15,000.00 to cover the total cost of the renovation. Motion made to accept proposal and take to the congregation for approval made by John Novinger seconded by Sharon Erdman. Approved. Motion made to have congregational meeting on April 14th after worship to discuss and vote on the proposed organ renovation by Susan Krause seconded by Doris Flynn. Approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Worship and Music**- Ready for- Palm Sunday service on March 24th, Maundy Thursday service with Holy Communion on March 28th, Good Friday Tenebrae service on March 29th, Easter Sunday service March 31st. Music Sunday will be on April 28th.
2. **Parish Education**- 3 confirmation students will get confirmed this year on Pentecost.
3. **Stewardship and Evangelism** – None
4. **Social Ministry** – No more bread give aways. Had 16 families for February foodbank day.
5. **Youth** – Flights are booked for the youth gathering. Leaving July 15th and returning on the 20th. 5 youth and 2 adults besides pastor Greg going. Funds for it need to be straightened out, Jean needs to get together with Dennis & Tracy to get things figured out.
6. **Church Property** – Church Mutual Insurance Company would like to send us a Sensor Alarm Kit to put in the furnace room for free. Discussion held, motion to accept the free kit by John Novinger seconded by Sharon Erdman. Approved. March 20th will be the last day of cleaning for Meriam Blyler at the church due to some family things. She mentioned that she and her mother would clean once a month. Discussion held and decided to see if anyone from the church would want to do it, also Brenda Flynn knows some people and she will ask them. Tabled till next month. Going to put a blub in the newsletter and bulletin to see if anyone is interested, or knows someone who can drive to do it. Motion to table made by Brenda Flynn seconded by Doris Flynn. Approved.
7. **Budget and Finance** – received a Gratz Fire Company donation letter, discussion held and decided to give same as last year of \$100.00, motion made by John Novinger and seconded by Deb Trautman. Approved.
8. **Fellowship** – April 27th Everybody's Birthday party with Italian covered dish with cake and ice cream with amateur talent night. Have lots of acts lined up. Starts at 5pm. Cook book recipes going well, have 600 some recipes, need to proof them and down size the number so the price can stay at \$20.00 per book. Pre orders starting soon.
9. **Mutual Ministry** – None

New Business – Egg coloring on Friday the 29th at 9am in the basement. Egg hunt Saturday March 30th at the Gratz Park 10am. Eggs for the hunt are in the Fridge in the basement and donated by some congregation members.

Pastor's Time – Synod Assembly is on Friday May 31st by zoom and Saturday June 1st in person at St. Matthews Evangelical Lutheran Church in York. Pastor Greg would like 1 person to go along this year registration ends on March 31st. Pastor Greg will announce to the congregation on Sunday to see if anyone would like to go. Next year he would like 2 people to go with (1male, 1Female) because it is election of a Bishop in 2025.

2024 GIVING

\$19,307.25

2024 EXPENSES

\$25,362.43

Difference between YTD Giving & YTD Expenses \$-6,055.18

{For General Operating Fund}

UPCOMING EVENTS:

APRIL

Monday, April 1 – Happy April Fool’s Day!!

Sunday, April 7 – Worship Service w/Holy Communion 10:15a.m. /Food Collection

Saturday, April 13 – Food Bank Open 9-11 a.m.

Sunday, April 14 – Worship Service 10:15a.m

Thursday, April 18 – Council Meeting 7 p.m.

Friday, April 19 – Deadline For May Newsletter!!!!!!

Sunday, April 21 – Worship Service 10:15a.m

Monday, April 22 – Earth Day!!

Wednesday, April 24 Administration Professionals Day!!

Friday, April 26 – Happy Arbor Day!!

Saturday, April 27 – Italian Covered Dish and Ice Cream Social with Amateur Talent Night 5pm

Sunday, April 28 – Music Sunday Worship Service 10:15a.m

MAY

Sunday, May 5 – Worship Service w/Holy Communion 10:15a.m. /Food Collection

Thursday, May 9- Ascension of Our Lord

Saturday, May 11 – Food Bank Open 9-11 a.m.

Sunday, May 12 – Ascension Sunday Worship Service 10:15a.m / Happy Mother’s Day

Thursday, May 16 – Council Meeting 7 p.m. /Little Hands Moving up Program

Friday, May 17 – Deadline For June Newsletter!!!!!!

Saturday, May 18 – Armed Forces Day!!!

Sunday, May 19 – Pentecost Sunday w/Holy Comm. 10:15a.m. /Little Hands Graduation

Sunday, May 26 – Holy Trinity Worship Service w/Holy Communion 10:15a.m.

Monday, May 27 – Happy Memorial Day!!!

“VOICE OF SIMEON” RADIO MINISTRY SPONSORS

APRIL 2024

April 7 – Buffington/Reed Funeral Home

April 14 – Willing Workers

April 21 – Bellevue Bees

April 28 – Hoffman’s Hatchery

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.

*******OFFICIAL NOTICE*******

The church council has approved a proposal by Columbia Organ Works for some Organ Renovation work. A Congregational meeting will be held on Sunday April 14th after worship to discuss and vote on the proposal. Please plan to attend and help us keep this beautiful “almost 100 year old” musical master piece in working condition. The organ is from 1928!!

SERVING IN APRIL & MAY

APRIL 7, 2024
1st SUNDAY OF
EASTER w/
HOLY COMMUNION

Greeter: Becky, Max, & Lincoln Hoover
Reader: Jean Perkins
Usher: Dave Strohecker
Glasses: Linda Koppenhaver Altar: Sharon Erdman

APRIL 14, 2024
2nd SUNDAY OF
EASTER

Greeter: Barbara & Keith Klinger
Reader: Lynn Schadle

APRIL 21, 2024
3rd SUNDAY OF
EASTER

Greeter: Mike Hartman
Reader: Sharon Erdman

APRIL 28, 2024
4th SUNDAY OF
EASTER

Greeter: Doris Flynn
Reader: Samantha Boyer

MAY 5, 2024
6th SUNDAY OF
EASTER w/
HOLY COMMUNION

Greeter: Matt Ferster
Reader: Doris Flynn
Usher: Lynn Schadle
Glasses: Tracy Bixler Altar: Dennis Barge

MAY 12, 2024
7th SUNDAY OF
EASTER

Greeter: John Novinger
Reader: Becky Hoover

MAY 19, 2024
PENTECOST
SUNDAY w/
HOLY COMMUNION

Greeter: Virginia Moore
Reader: Mike Hartman
Usher: Matt Ferster Altar: John Novinger
Glasses: Susan Krause & Doris Flynn

MAY 26, 2024
HOLY TRINITY
SUNDAY w/
HOLY COMMUNION

Greeter: Susan Krause
Reader: Jenny Sracic
Usher: Mike Hartman
Glasses: Virginia Moore Altar: Lynn Schadle

PRAYER LIST

Members –Gloria Klinger, Julie Ferster, Sandra Matter, Cindy Wolfgang, Janet Rumfelt, Barbara Klinger, Marie Lahr, Clair & Vivian Engle, David Hartman, Jim Neiswender

Northern Dauphin Nursing & Rehab. - Kenneth Mace
Polk Apartments - Martha Koppenhaver, Charles Schoffstall

Friends & Family – Anne Schmick, Miriam Logan, , Linda Sitlinger, Randy Rebeck, Blair Deitrich, Kathie Dresel, Dorothy Lettich Martin, Steve Dagen, Rahn Erdman, Jim Troutman

SIMEON UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH

PO BOX 478

173 NORTH CENTER STREET
GRATZ, PA 17030

Rev. Gregory B. Lindsey, Pastor

Church Phone: (717)365-3139

Pastor Cell: (717)521-9402

Secretary Email: sulc.angel80@gmail.com

Church Website: www.simeonlutheran.org

YouTube channel: Simeon Church, Gratz PA

ELCA Website: www.elca.org

Lower Susquehanna Synod: www.lss-elca.org

Chefs Corner



Magic Pan Cookie Bars

1½ cup graham cracker crumbs
1 pkg. shredded coconut
1 pkg. chocolate chips

½ cup butter
1 cup nuts
1 can condensed milk

In a 9x13 inch pan melt butter. Sprinkle graham crumbs over butter and mix. Pour in condensed milk over top crumbs. Top with chocolate chips, coconut, and nuts. Press evenly in pan and bake at 350* for 25 minutes. Cool and then cut into squares.

Lemon Cream Cheese Brownies

¾ cup all-purpose flour
1 stick softened salted butter
2 eggs
3-4 drops yellow food coloring

¾ cup sugar
¾ cup cream cheese, softened
3 tablespoons lemon juice

Icing:

2-3 tablespoon lemon juice
Yellow sprinkles (optional)

1 cup powdered sugar

Preheat your oven to 350*. Line an 8x8 baking pan with parchment paper and spray the sides with a non-stick cooking spray. Mix together your sugar and flour. Add in your butter and cream cheese, then beat until you get a creamy consistency. Now add in your eggs, lemon juice, and yellow food coloring and mix. Pour your batter into your pan. Bake for 20 minutes. Let cool for 30 minutes. While your brownies are cooling, mix together your powdered sugar and lemon juice. Pour over your brownies and spread evenly with a spatula. Sprinkle with some lemon sprinkles chill and enjoy.

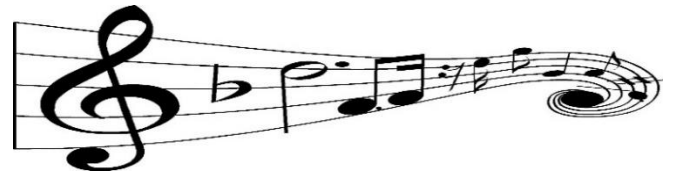
Lasagna-Style Casserole

1 (6oz.) pkg. large bow-tie pasta
1 lb. ground beef
1(15oz.) can pizza sauce
1 Tbsp. minces onion
½ tsp. dry basil

1 egg (beaten)
2 cup ricotta cheese
¾ cup parmesan cheese
2 cup mozzarella cheese

Cook pasta until tender, then drain. Fry ground beef and onion till brown and drain. Add sauce and basil to meat and mix. In a bowl combine egg and ricotta cheese. In a 9x13 inch baking dish, layer half the pasta. Spoon over cheese mixture over pasta, then sprinkle the parmesan cheese on top. Layer remaining pasta, meat mixture and mozzarella cheese. Bake, covered at 425* for 15 minutes, then uncover and bake for 5-8 minutes longer or until heated through.

Music Notes



My Faith Looks Up to Thee

My Faith Looks Up to Thee 1830

Ray Palmer, 1830

Lowell Mason, 1831

1. My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2. May Thy rich grace im - part Strength to my faint - ing heart,
3. While life's dark maze I tread, And griefs a - round me spread,
4. When ends life's tran - sient dream, When death's cold, sul - len stream

Sav - ior di - vine: Now hear me while I pray, Take all my
My zeal in - spire; As Thou hast died for me, O may my
Be Thou my guide; Bid dark - ness turn to day, Wipe sor - row's
Shall o'er me roll, Blest Sav - ior, then, in love, Fear and dis -

guilt a - way, O let me from this day Be whol - ly Thine!
love to Thee Pure, warm, and change-less be, A liv - ing fire!
tears a - way, Nor let me ev - er stray From Thee a - side.
trust re - move; O bear me safe a - bove, A ran - somed soul!

and courage, composed in his rented room one night in 1830 when he had felt sick, tired, and lonely. He later explained that he had wept that winter's evening upon finishing this poem: "The words for these stanzas were born out of my own soul with very little effort," he said. "I recall that I wrote the verses with tender emotion. There was not the slightest thought of writing for another eye, least of all writing a hymn for Christian worship."

After reading the words, Mason ducked into a nearby store for a piece of paper and hurriedly copied them down. That evening in his studio, he poured over this poem, hammering out the perfect tune for it. Shortly after, the two men met again and Mason told the young man, "Mr. Palmer, you may live many years and do many good things, but I think You will be best known to posterity as the author of 'My Faith Looks Up to Thee.'"

Lowell Mason was right. Ray Palmer did go on to do many good things and to write many fine hymns. But he is remembered by posterity for his first hymn, one written before he even entered ministry.

In the early 1830's, Lowell Mason moved to Boston from Savannah, where for sixteen years he had worked in a bank while directing church choirs on the side. In relocating to Boston, he wanted to focus exclusively on his musical interests. Soon he was directing three choirs, publishing hymns, compiling a songbook, and trying to get music education in the Boston public schools.

One day in 1832, he bumped into Ray Palmer. Palmer, 24, was exhausted. For years, he had burned the candle on both ends, working as a clerk in a dry goods store, attending classes at Yale, teaching at a girl's school in New York City, and preparing for the ministry.

Now, Mason wanted Palmer to write for him, to compose some hymns for his projected hymnbook.

Palmer, too tired to produce anything new, hesitatingly opened his little leather journal and showed Mason a poem he had written two years before. It was a personal prayer for renewed zeal

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR YOUTH



Congratulations to Jason Dively for a successful audition and acceptance into this year's Dauphin County Band Festival!!! The Festival was held on Saturday, February 3rd at Central Dauphin High School, and featured musicians from all Dauphin County Schools.

Kirra sang the National Anthem at the State Wrestling Championships in Hershey on Friday, March 8th 2024



ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE FOOD BANK

Rice or pasta sides, cereal, pasta, soup, & sugar free things.

DAILY DEVOTIONALS

The Daily Devotionals for April-June, 2024 are available in the narthex. Pick yours up or have someone get them for you.

Welcome

New Members

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBER



Will & Betsy Rogers - P.O. Box 221
Gratz, PA 17030

Cindy Whitmoyer - P.O. Box 431
Gratz, PA 17030

Martha (Marie) Lahr - 1178 Specktown
Road, Lykens PA 17048

Will, Betsy, & Cindy have been worshipping with us for some time now, and we are so pleased that they formally joined our Church Family on February 25 & March 3rd. Marie, has transferred back to Simeon from Calvery Independent Church, Lykens. We're glad you decided to be a part of our family. New members are a gift from God, and an

encouragement to us as we work to share the Simeon Spirit. We are so glad to have them and pray God's Blessing on them.

MUSIC SUNDAY

Music Sunday will be held on Sunday, April 28th, during worship. Please join us in singing some old, but familiar songs from the Sunday School Book. If you have a particular song you like please write it down and give it to Tim Ferster, even if it is not in the Sunday school book he can find almost anything in his large collection of hymnals.

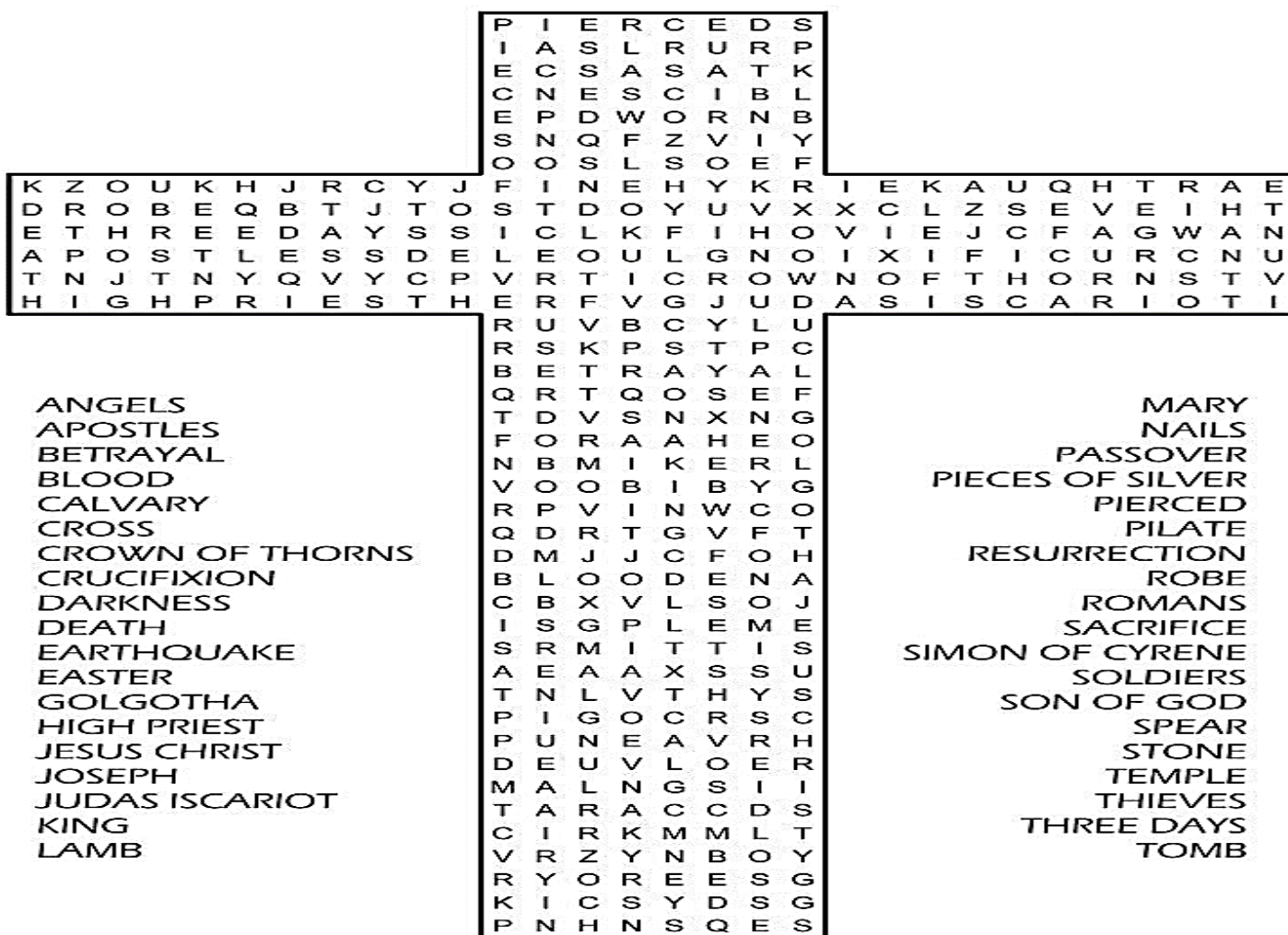


The Fellowship committee is kicking off 2024 with Everybody's Birthday Party. It will be an Italian Covered Dish and Ice Cream Social w/Amateur Talent Night on April 27th, beginning at 5:00 p.m. Please bring your favorite Italian food, your favorite cake, or ice cream to share. Dust off those tap shoes, practice your yodeling or whatever talent you may possess and come out for an evening of fun and fellowship. We have several acts lined up already and are looking for more. Help keep the Simeon Spirit alive!

IN NEED OF A CLEANING PERSON

Miriam Blyler has resigned as the cleaning person due to some family things. If you or if you know anyone that would like to clean the church every 2 weeks please let one of the council members know.

Easter Word Search



Jesus Rises Up

(John 20)

After Jesus died on the cross, His body was put inside a tomb. A heavy stone was placed in front of the opening. When Mary Magdalene went to His tomb, she saw that the stone had been rolled away. Jesus was not there!
Find the path that takes Mary to the tomb.



THE JELLY BEANS

Red is for the blood He gave,
Green is for the grass He made,
Yellow is for His sun so bright,
Orange is for the edge of night,
Black is for the sins we made,
White is for grace He gave,
Purple is for His hours of sorrow,
pink is for our new tomorrow.

May every day be Easter in your heart.
May the Joy you feel on Easter morning
be the Joy of each day of your life.