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It is usually around Lent when I pull out my CDs for Richard Foster's classic devotional work, "A Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth." While I have the book in hard copy and on my Kindle, I like to listen to the CDs as the book is read by the author. Foster has such a pleasant voice and his inflection really brings to life the content of his work.

Foster begins his first chapter titled ‘The Spiritual Disciplines: Door to Liberation’ with these words:

Foster continues further in the chapter:

From there, chapter by chapter, Foster offers practical instructions on how to practice such disciplines as meditation, prayer, fasting, study, and simplicity. True to good Lutheran theology, Foster notes that the spiritual disciplines are not a means by which we receive the righteousness of God, for righteousness is a free gift we receive through the grace of Jesus Christ. Rather, the disciplines put us in a place where God can bless us. They are a means of grace.

I understand the disciplines as much needed medicine for people who are weary of a busy and demanding world. If we truly believe that God cares for us and wants the best for us, why would we not go to him for healing and guidance? Jesus promises to be the very living water for our souls which are thirsty and stained in a world dominated by self interest and fear.

I never tire of speaking and preaching about it. Any who is interested, Foster's work can be easily obtained through Amazon. I truly believe they are worth our most sincere effort. I hope you don't tire of hearing and thinking about the spiritual life available to all Christians.

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Greg*

### **CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FROM, FEBRUARY 2024**

**OLD BUSINESS:** The updated organ proposal was handed out and a discussion was had about Financing of the work. Budget going to get sum numbers together. Looking into seeing if there are any Grants that we may get to help cover the cost. Tabled till we get more info on financing.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. **Worship and Music**- Ash Wed. service was good, Lent starting on Sunday and bible study next Tuesday instead of Wednesday because of a Red Hat meeting on Wednesday.
2. **Parish Education**- None
3. **Stewardship and Evangelism** – None
4. **Social Ministry** – Had a bread giveaway again. Foodbank had 16 families for February and gave sum extras goodies to the Families.
5. **Youth** – No snow tubing. Meet on Tuesday night to go over the Youth Gathering information for those going, 3Adults & 4 Youth. Would like the Church to front the money to go till can retrieve the CD. Discussion was had and decided for them to use what is in their account and go from there. They are also going to do fundraising as well.
6. **Church Property** – Furnace problem getting it fixed –(circulator pump). No more Xfinity! Going to be saving over \$200 a month by switching to Frontier.
7. **Budget and Finance** – Housing Allowance needs to be voted on. Motion to Keep the Housing Allowance as is by Tracy Bixler seconded by Carl Slough. Approved.
8. **Fellowship** – 14 members and 1 guest meet on Sunday February 11<sup>th</sup> for lunch and planned the year of events. April 27<sup>th</sup> – Italian night?/Ice cream social featuring covered dishes with an Italian theme (may be different menu) & Amateur talent night, June 16<sup>th</sup> – Church picnic at Gratz Boro park, immediately after church service, October 12<sup>th</sup> – (Tentative)Murder Mystery Dinner “Murder at the Pie Auction” menu to be decided, November 3<sup>rd</sup> – Bishop visit with a luncheon of Soup and Sandwiches following service, December 1<sup>st</sup>- Christmas Tea, December ?- Cookie Fellowship.

Other Projects:-- Work day - to reorganize and inventory the kitchen, Date to be decided. Community Outreach – Lisa is going to check with the Lighthouse to determine what items are the most requested and we will conduct a drive for those items. Cookbook – It was decided to create a cookbook featuring recipes from the congregation. Lisa And Tracy will work on this. Hoping to have it completed in time to sell at community yard sale, and other events. Tea Committee – Working on recruiting additional help. Card Ministry – Continues with resuming passing the cards for all to sign. Pot Pie Fund Raiser – Will be only sold by the quart and preorders required. Date to be decided.

9. **Mutual Ministry** – None

**New Business** – None

**The Pastor's Time** – Going to rework the Confirmation Covenant till the start of new class in fall.

**2024 GIVING**  
\$9,853.14  
**2024 EXPENSES**  
\$12,471.24  
**Difference between YTD Giving & YTD Expenses**  
**\$-2,618.10**  
**{For General Operating Fund}**

**SIMEON UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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YouTube channel: Simeon Church, Gratz PA

ELCA Website: [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

Lower Susquehanna Synod: [www.lss-elca.org](http://www.lss-elca.org)

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**MARCH**

Sunday, March 3 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Lent Worship Service w/Holy Communion 10:15a.m. /Food Collection

Wednesday, March 6 – Bible Study 7pm

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

**Sunday, March 10 – Daylight Savings (turn clocks ahead) /4<sup>th</sup> Lent Worship Service 10:15a.m**

Wednesday, March 13 – Bible Study 7pm

Sunday, March 17 – 5<sup>th</sup> Lent Worship Service 10:15a.m /Happy St. Patrick's Day!!

**Tuesday, March 19 – First Day of Spring!!**

Wednesday, March 20 – Bible Study 7pm

**Thursday, March 21 – Council Meeting 7 p.m.**

**Friday, March 22 – Deadline For April Newsletter!!!!!!**

**Sunday, March 24 – Palm Sunday Worship Service 10:15a.m**

Little Hands Easter parties Mon. & Tue. March 25 & 26

**Thursday, March 28 – Maundy Thursday Service w/Holy Communion 7 p.m.**

**Friday, March 29 – Good Friday Service 7 pm / Coloring Easter Eggs in the a.m.???**

Saturday, March 30 – Easter Egg Hunt 10 a.m.

**Sunday, March 31 – Easter Worship Service w/Holy Communion 10:15 a.m.**

**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

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

## SERVING IN MARCH & APRIL

**MARCH 3, 2024**

**3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY**

**IN LENT w/**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

Greeter: Jenny Sracic

Reader: Jenny Sracic

Usher: Dave Strohecker

Glasses: Jean Perkins

Altar: Doris Flynn

**MARCH 10, 2024**

**4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY**

**IN LENT**

Greeter: Susan Krause

Reader: Dennis Barge

**MARCH 17, 2024**

**5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY**

**IN LENT**

Greeter: Jenny Sracic

Reader: John Novinger

**MARCH 24, 2024**

**PALM SUNDAY**

Greeter: Anna Coleman

Reader: Barbara & Keith Klinger

**MARCH 28, 2024**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**

**w/ HOLY**

**COMMUNION**

Greeter: Darlene Novinger

Reader: Tracy Bixler

Usher: Lynn Schadle

Glasses: Susan Krause

Altar: Sharon Erdman

**MARCH 29, 2024**

**GOOD FRIDAY**

Greeter: Dave Strohecker

Reader: John Novinger & Pastor Greg

**MARCH 31, 2024**

**EASTER SUNDAY**

**w/ HOLY**

**COMMUNION**

Greeter: John Novinger

Reader: Virginia Moore

Usher: Mike Hartman

Glasses: Becky Hoover

Altar: John Novinger &  
Lynn Schadle

**APRIL 7, 2024**

**1<sup>st</sup> 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**

**2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF**

**EASTER**

Greeter: Barbara & Keith Klinger

Reader: Lynn Schadle

**APRIL 21, 2024**

**3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF**

**EASTER**

Greeter: Mike Hartman

Reader: Sharon Erdman

**APRIL 28, 2024**

**4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF**

**EASTER**

Greeter: Doris Flynn

Reader: Samantha Boyer



## **THANK YOU ALL!!!!**

Thanks to all who showed up to make the donuts. It was a LONG day but we had a lot of fun. Thanks to Timothy Ferster and Edna for spearheading the fundraiser and all those who helped. It



"Lift and toss, lift and toss."

could not have been possible without all of your hard work and help, and to everyone who purchased and sold them. We had **NO Expenses** thanks to Masser's Potato's and a Thrivent card. **Thank You Everyone!!!**



"When Tim asked if we wanted to be Friars, we didn't know he meant fryers."



"I think I should taste test these."



"Are we done yet?"

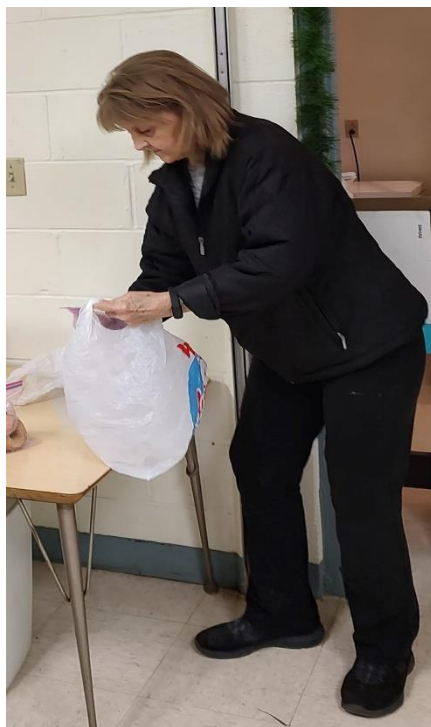


"I wonder if this will shrink."





"I'd rather be cutting hair, but here I am!"



"This is fill a bag, right?"



"Glad I wore white, so all this flour doesn't show."



"I didn't think this is what he meant when he said I'd be rolling in dough."



"Eenie, meenie, minnie, moe"



Just like rabbits, they kept multiplying!

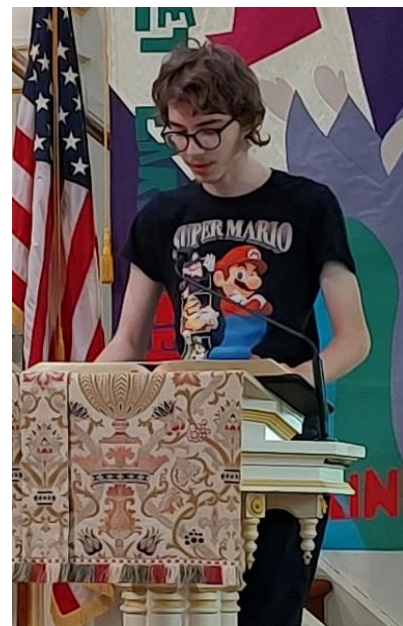




**Youth**  
**Sunday**  
**January**  
**28, 2024**







### **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, Clint Timmins, Linda Sitlinger, Kenneth Lahr, Randy Rebeck, Blair Deitrich, Kathie Dresel, Dorothy Lettich Martin, Steve Dagen, Rahn Erdman, Jim Troutman*

### **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.

### **RECIPES NEEDED!!!!**

We are making a Simeon's cookbook to get our name out to the community and do a fundraiser for the church. Please submit 5 or more of your families favorite recipes. Make a copy or bring your recipe to be copied here at the church. Please give recipes to *Lisa Perkins or Susan Krause by March 17th.* Your name or your loved ones name associated to the recipe will be included with the recipe in the book. **We have some awesome cooks, let's show it off!!!!**

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

#### **March 2024**

**March 3** – Buffington/Reed Funeral Home

**March 10** – Willing Workers

**March 17** – Mr. & Mrs. Lynn Schadle

**March 24** – Deppen’s Farm Inc.

**March 31** – The Bucher Family

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.



# Music Notes



## Christ Arose!

Bb Eb Bb Bb F F7 Eb Bb Eb Bb D Bb  
 1 Low in the grave he lay- Je-sus my Sav-ior, wait-ing the com-ing day-  
 2 Vain-ly they watch his bed- Je-sus my Sav-ior, vain-ly they seal the dead-  
 3 Death can-not keep his prey- Je-sus my Sav-ior, he tore the bars a-way-

Gm E C7 F Refrain Bb  
 Je-sus my Lord! Je-sus my Lord! Up from the grave he a-rose, with a  
 Je-sus my Lord! Je-sus my Lord! he a-rose,

Bb Eb Bb F F7  
 might-y tri-umph o'er his foes; he a-rose a vic-tor from the  
 he a-rose!

Gm Eb Bb Eb C7 F7 Gm F  
 dark do-main, and he lives for-ev-er with his saints to reign. He a-

Bb Eb Bb F7 Bb  
 rose! He a-rose! He a-rose! He a-rose! Hal-le-lu-jah! Christ a-rose!

## Christ Arose!

1874

What can exhausted pastors do to relax on Sunday nights after a hard day's work? Baptist preacher Robert Lowry went home to his wife and three sons---and wrote hymns. "Dr. Lowry will continue to preach the gospel in his hymns long after his sermons have been forgotten," Ira Sankey once wrote. "Many of his hymns were written after the Sunday evening service, when his body was weary, but his mind refused to rest."

Robert Lowry was born in Pennsylvania in 1826. At his conversion at the age of seventeen, he joined a Baptist church. Shortly afterward, he enrolled at the University of Lewisburg (now Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania). After graduating he pastored churches in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. He also taught at Bucknell and at one time served as its chancellor. Lowry gained a reputation for keen biblical scholarship and powerful preaching.

When gospel song editor William Bradley Died in 1868, Lowry was chosen to replace him as a publisher of Sunday school music. He's best known, however, for his own gospel songs, including:

"Nothing But the Blood" (words & music)

"Shall We Gather at the River?" (words & music)

"Where Is My Wandering Boy Tonight?" (words & music)

"All the Way My Savior Leads Me" (music)

I Need Thee Every Hour" (music)

"Marching to Zion" (music)

"Music, with me has been a side issue," he once said. "I would rather preach a gospel sermon to an appreciative audience than write a hymn. I have always looked upon myself as a preacher and felt a sort of depreciation when I began to be known more as a composer."

This hymn, "Christ Arose!" was written one evening during the Easter season of 1874 while Lowry was engaged in his devotions. He became deeply impressed with Luke 24:6-8, especially the words of the angel at the tomb of Christ: "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but risen!"

The words and music began forming together in his mind. Going to the little pump organ in his home, Lowry soon completed what was to become one of our greatest resurrection hymns.

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

# Chefs Corner

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## Orange Julius

1(6oz.) can froze orange juice  
½ cup sugar  
2 trays ice cubes

1 cup water  
1 tsp vanilla  
1 cup milk

In an electric blender put orange juice, milk, sugar, water, and vanilla. Add approximately 8 ice cubes at a time. Continue blending and adding ice cubes until desired consistency.

## Brown Mountain Cake

1 cup softened butter  
2 cup sugar  
3 eggs  
1 tsp vanilla  
½ tsp salt

2 Tbsp. cocoa  
1 cup buttermilk or sour cream  
3 cups sifted flour  
1 tsp baking soda  
½ cup water

Cream butter and sugar. Beat in eggs, 21 at a time. Sift dry ingredients together. Add alternately with butter milk or sour cream to a creamed mixture. Stir in vanilla and warm water. Bake in a lightly greased and floured 9x13 inch pan at 350\* for about 45 minutes.

## Crazy Chicken Casserole

3 cups cooked diced chicken  
2 cans cream of mushroom soup  
2 cans cream of chicken soup  
2 cans chicken with rice soup  
1 can condensed milk  
1 (4oz.) can mushrooms

14 oz. Chow Mein noodles  
1 green pepper diced  
2 cups diced celery  
¼ cup sherry  
2 can French fried onion rings

Mix all ingredients together well. Pour into 1 greased 9x13 inch baking dish and 1-9 inch square baking dish. Bake at 300\* for 1 hour.

## Broccoli Slaw

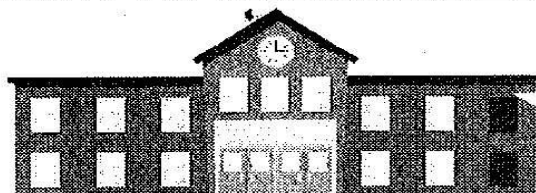
¼ cup oil  
1/3 cup cider vinegar  
½ cup sugar  
1 bag broccoli slaw

1 pkg. chicken flavored Roman noodles-uncooked  
1 cup chopped cashews  
1 cup sunflower seeds  
1 bunch green onions (chopped)

Dressing- mix together oil, vinegar, sugar together, then stir in the powder mix from the noodles till mixed well. Next break up the noodles and toss with the broccoli and onion. Pour the dressing over top and toss. Add the cashews and sunflowers seeds on top about 1 hour before serving.



# OUR VERY OWN LITTLE HANDS NURSERY SCHOOL MADE THE NEWSPAPER



## **SPOTLIGHT ON OUR STUDENTS**

**We asked the students at Little Hands Nursery School in Gratz some questions.**

Where is your favorite place to go? Why?

**Alaina** (age 5): "Knoebel's. I love all the rides!"



**Alaina**

What is your favorite thing to do with friends?

**Lane** (age 4): "Pretend to be firefighters."



**Lane**

What do you think the best part of being an adult will be?

**Caroline** (age 5): "Having kids and deciding stuff."



**Caroline**

What is your favorite song?

**Liam** (age 4): "Row, Row, Your Boat and Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer."



**Liam**

What is something that you have learned at school?

**Charlotte** (age 4): "My ABC's and the Lord's Prayer."



**Charlotte**

What do you think the best part of being an adult will be?

**Micah** (age 4): "Tucking kids in at night."



**Micah**

What do you think the best part of being an adult will be?

**Harper** (age 4): "Having a phone."



**Harper**

What is your favorite thing to do with your family? Why?

**Willow** (age 4): "Play with Charlie (family dog) because she is my sister."



**Willow**

If you opened a store, what would you sell?

**Flynt** (age 4): "Toy robots."



**Flynt**

What is something that makes you happy?

**Wyatt** (age 4): "My TV and playdough."



**Wyatt**

If your stuffed animals could talk, what would they say?

**Kaitlyn** (age 4): "Thank you for cuddling me and taking care of me."



**Kaitlyn**

What is something that you have learned at school?

**Karsyn** (age 4): "My letters and how to share toys at toy time."



No  
Photo  
Available

**Congratulations  
to our winner, Micah!**

Micah will receive  
a \$25 prize, compliments of  
The Bank of Bird in Hand.

*Tucking kids in at night is absolutely  
the best part about being an adult!*