

*The Simeon Spirit*  
SIMEON UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Gratz, PA  
November 2023

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**Pastor's Message: Living with Thanksgiving.**

Greg Anderson, in *Living Life on Purpose*, tells a story about a man whose wife had left him. He was completely depressed. He had lost faith in himself, in other people, in God--he found no joy in living. One rainy morning this man went to a small neighborhood restaurant for breakfast. Although several people were at the diner, no one was speaking to anyone else. Our miserable friend hunched over the counter, stirring his coffee with a spoon.

In one of the small booths along the window was a young mother with a little girl. They had just been served their food when the little girl broke the sad silence by almost shouting, "Momma, why don't we say our prayers here?" The waitress who had just served their breakfast turned around and said, "Sure, honey, we can pray here. Will you say the prayer for us?" And she turned and looked at the rest of the people in the restaurant and said, "Bow your heads." Surprisingly, one by one, the heads went down. The little girl then bowed her head, folded her hands, and said, "God is great, God is good, and we thank him for our food. Amen."

That prayer changed the entire atmosphere. People began to talk with one another. The waitress said, "We should do that every morning."

"All of a sudden," said our friend, "my whole frame of mind started to improve. From that little girl's example, I started to thank God for all that I did have and stopped majoring in all that I didn't have. I started to be grateful."

O' the wisdom and courage of a young girl. Precious. Of course, we think much about giving thanks during November with Thanksgiving coming up. Yet, let's not focus giving thanks to God on just one month of the year, but every month and every day. Moreover, not just when we are at home or with family, but at the restaurant, a friend's house, or just any time we remember we are alive and loved by God. Because we live in a state of grace because of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us live always with an attitude of thanksgiving.

Faithfully and thankfully yours,

*Pastor Greg*

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## CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FROM OCTOBER, 2023

Due to the council meeting being held after press, the October highlights will be included in the December newsletter along with the November.

### 2023 GIVING

\$99,882.37

### 2023 EXPENSES

\$116,688.19

**Difference between YTD Giving & YTD Expenses \$-16,805.82**

{For General Operating Fund}

## “VOICE OF SIMEON” RADIO MINISTRY SPONSORS

### NOVEMBER 2023

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

**November 12** – Willing Workers

**November 19** – Sunset View Contractors LLC

**November 26** – Deppen’s Farm Inc.

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

### A SPECIAL THANK YOU

We want to thank **all** 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.

### ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE FOOD BANK

Stove top stuffing, instant mashed potato, canned soup, canned fruit, and canned pasta

### DAILY DEVOTIONALS

The Daily Devotionals for October - December, 2023 are available in the narthex. Pick yours up or have someone get them for you.

### 2024 CALENDARS ARE AVAILABLE

The 2024 calendars are here and in the narthex. Please pick some up and give them to your neighbors and friends!!!

### PRAYER LIST

**Members**- Sandra Matter, Sharon Hartman, Cindy Wolfgang, Janet Rumfelt, Barbara Klinger, Clair Engle, Jean Hess, David Hartman, Jim Neiswender

**Northern Dauphin Nursing & Rehab.** (Millersburg)- Vivian Engle, Kenneth Mace

**Polk Apartments**- John Kissinger, Martha Koppenhaver, *Charles Schoffstall*

**Friends & Family**- *Craig Welker, Randy Rebeck, Blair Deitrich, Bruce Nace, Kathie Dresel, Dorothy Lettich Martin, Steve Dagen, Rahn Erdman, Marie Lahr, Christy Warfel, Jeff Latsha, Jim Troutman*

### Harvest Sunday- October 9<sup>th</sup>

Thanks to all who donated to our food bank in honor of Harvest Sunday. A large amount of food (2 grocery carts overflowing) was received and is going to those in need. Thank You All!!!!

## SERVING IN NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

NOVEMBER 5, 2023

**ALL SAINTS  
SUNDAY w/  
HOLY COMMUNION**

Greeter: John Novinger

Reader: Becky Hoover

Usher: Mike Hartman

Glasses: Susan Krause

Altar: Lynn Schadle

NOVEMBER 12, 2023

**24<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER  
PENTECOST**

Greeter: Leah Schade

Reader: Samantha Boyer

NOVEMBER 19, 2023

**25<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER  
PENTECOST, Healing Service**

Greeter: Virginia Moore

Reader: Doris Flynn

NOVEMBER 22, 2023

**THANKSGIVING  
EVE**

Greeter: Susan Krause

Reader: Mike Hartman

NOVEMBER 26, 2023

**CHRIST THE KING  
SUNDAY w/  
HOLY COMMUNION**

Greeter: Cameron Smeltz

Reader: Jenny Sracic

Usher: Matt Ferster

Glasses: Virginia Moore

Altar: Sharon Erdman

DECEMBER 3, 2023

**1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF  
ADVENT w/  
HOLY COMMUNION**

Greeter: Susan Krause

Reader: Dennis Barge

Usher: Dave Strohecker

Glasses: Brenda Flynn

Altar: Dennis Barge

DECEMBER 10, 2023

**2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF  
ADVENT**

Greeter: Jenny Sracic

Reader: John Novinger

DECEMBER 17, 2023

**3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF  
ADVENT**

Greeter: Anna Coleman

Reader: Virginia Moore

DECEMBER 24, 2023 A.M.

**4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF  
ADVENT**

Greeter: Darlene Novinger

Reader: Tracy Bixler

DECEMBER 24, 2023 P.M.

**CHRISTMAS EVE  
SERVICE w/  
HOLY COMMUNION**

Greeter: Dave Strohecker

Reader: Becky Hoover

Usher: Lynn Schadle

Glasses: Linda Koppenhaver

Altar: John Novinger &  
Doris Flynn

DECEMBER 31, 2023

**1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF  
CHRISTMAS**

Greeter: Lynn Schadle

Reader: Jean Perkins

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### NOVEMBER

**Wednesday, November 1-** All Saints Day

**Sunday, November 5-** All Saints Sunday w/Holy Communion 10:15 a.m. /Daylight Savings

**Tuesday, November 7-** Election Day

**Saturday, November 11** - Food Bank Open 9-11 a.m. /**Happy Veterans Day**

Sunday, November 12- Worship Service 10:15 a.m.

**Thursday, November 16 - Council Meeting 7 p.m.**

**Friday, November 17 - Newsletter Deadline**

**Sunday, November 19- Healing Worship Service 10:15 a.m.**

**Wednesday, November 22-** Thanksgiving Eve Service 7p.m.

**Thursday, November 23- HAPPY THANKSGIVING**

**Sunday, November 26- Christ The King Sunday w/Holy Communion 10:15 a.m.**

### DECEMBER

**Saturday, December 2** – Decorate the Church 9a.m.

**Sunday, December 3** – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent Worship Service w/Holy Communion 10:15a.m.  
& Christmas Tea 2pm

**Thursday, December 7** – Pearl Harbor Day

**Saturday, December 9** - Food Bank Open 9-11 a.m. /**Christmas House Tours**

Sunday, December 10 - Second Sunday of Advent Worship Service 10:15a.m.

Sunday, December 17 – Third Sunday of Advent Worship Service 10:15a.m. /Sunday School  
Program? & Fellowship with cookies after worship

*Monday & Tuesday, December 18 & 19 – Little Hands Christmas Parties*

**Thursday, December 21 - Council Meeting 7 p.m. /First day of Winter**

**Friday, December 22 - Newsletter Deadline For January Newsletter!!!!**

Sunday, December 24 A.M. - Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship Service 10:15a.m.

**Sunday, December 24 P.M. – Christmas Eve Worship Service w/Holy Communion 7pm.**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 25 – MERRY CHRISTMAS-CHRIST THE LORD IS BORN!!**

Sunday, December 31 - Worship Service 10:15 a.m. / Happy New Years Eve



We would like to thank the Fellowship Committee for putting together the Lasagna Dinner/Magic Show community outreach project. The committee felt that by not focusing on fundraising but still covering expenses more families with children could attend. Worker bees included --Darlene Novinger, Doris Flynn, Brenda Flynn, Ginny Moore, Sharon Erdman, Denise Spradling, Tracy Bixler, John Novinger, Dennis & Susan Krause, and our cashier Jean Perkins. Our heartfelt thanks to all our talented bakers who gave so generously and of course our cleanup crew. We think the Amazing Carson was a hit and in spite of it not being a fundraiser we still cleared \$400. Overall – a total success!

# Music Notes



## Shall We Gather at the River

1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,  
 2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,  
 3 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;  
 4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;

with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?  
 we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day,  
 grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.  
 soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

*Refrain*  
 Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er,  
 gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

## Shall We Gather at the River?

1864

Often called the “Good Doctor,” Robert Lowry was a cheerful man with a big beard and a quick mind. He pastored Baptist churches in the Eastern U.S. during the mid-1800s. One friend said, “Very few men had greater ability in painting pictures from imagination. He could thrill an audience with his vivid descriptions, inspiring them with the same thoughts that inspired him”.

But he is best remembered for his hymns. Even in childhood he had composed tunes, and as he became acquainted with leaders in America hymnology-many of them based in New York-he realized he could reach more people through his songs than through his sermons.

He set many of Fanny Crosby’s hymns to music, including the classic, “All the Way My Savior Leads Me.” And he wrote both words and music to the popular gospel song: “What can Wash Away Your Sins? / Nothing but the Blood of Jesus.”

The doctor’s best known hymn is “Shall We Gather at the River?” Though often used at baptisms, it’s actually a song about heaven. It came to Lowry on a mid-summer’s day in New York, when, in the sweltering heat, he began musing about the cool, crystal river that flows through the city of God as described in Revelation 22.

One afternoon in July, 1864, when I was pastor at Hanson Place Baptist Church, Brooklyn, the weather was oppressively hot, and I was lying on a lounge in a state of physical exhaustion. I felt almost incapable of bodily exertion, and my imagination began to take itself wings. Visions of the future passed before me with startling vividness. The imagery of the apocalypse took the form of a tableau. Brightest of all were the throne, the heavenly river, and the gathering of the saints. My soul seemed to take new life from that celestial outlook. I began to wonder why the hymn writers had said so clear about the “river of death” and so little about the “pure water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and the Lamb.” As I mused, the words began to construct themselves. They came first as a question of Christian inquiry, “Shall we gather?” Then they broke out in a chorus, “Yes we’ll gather.” On this question and answer the hymn developed itself. The music came with the hymn.

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

# Chefs Corner



## Pumpkin Dessert

1(16oz.) can pumpkin  
1 cup sugar

½ tsp. cinnamon  
1 tsp. vanilla

### Topping

1 box carrot cake mix  
1¾ sticks butter (melted)

1 cup chopped pecans

Preheat oven to 350\*. Mix together pumpkin, sugar, eggs, cinnamon, and milk. Pour into a 9x13 inch greased pan. Sprinkle dry cake mix over pumpkin mix, then drizzle butter over dry mix. Bake at 350\* for 45 minutes. Sprinkle chopped pecans over top and press lightly into cake. Bake for 15 minutes more. Serve with whipped cream.

## Chicken Casserole

2¾ cups diced chicken  
1½ cups chicken broth  
2 cup uncooked elbow macaroni  
1 can cream of mushroom soup  
1 can cream of chicken soup

½ cup diced peppers  
½ cup diced onion  
1 cup milk  
salt & pepper to taste  
2 cups diced American cheese

Mix all the ingredients together including uncooked macaroni. Pour into a 9x13 inch greased baking dish and refrigerate overnight. Bake at 350\* covered for 50 minutes, then bake uncovered for the final 10 minutes. (May sub chicken for ham, turkey, tuna, or hamburger).

## Spinach Rice Salad

1 cup uncooked rice  
¾ cup Italian dressing  
½ cup chopped green onions  
½ cup sugar

3 cups fresh spinach (bite-size pieces)  
1 tsp. soy sauce  
1 cup cooked bacon (chopped)  
1 cup shredded cheese

Cook rice according to package directions and drain. Combine Italian dressing, soy sauce, and sugar. Pour over rice, cover, and chill. Add spinach, onions, cheese, and bacon before serving.

## Old English Scones

2 cup flour  
1 tsp. salt  
4oz. butter  
2oz. sugar

1 cup milk  
milk for glazing  
raisins, to taste

Sift flour and salt. Add raisins and cut in butter to fine bread crumb stage. Add sugar. Mix to soft dough stage with milk. Roll on floured board and cut into rounds. Brush with milk. Bake at 375 for 10 to 15 minutes. Serve with your favorite jam.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Believe in Blessings is a non-profit thrift shop that all the proceeds go back to the community. They rely on your donated items to continue to operate. Since their inception they have provided a helping hand to families by:

- Replenishing free household items for house fire victims
- Providing free food for a church food pantry
- Providing free clothing to PA veterans
- Providing free school supplies for area students
- Providing diapers to working families using daycare
- Giving free clothing to people in the area experiencing financial difficulties
- Donates financially to 26 Local Fire Companies

They are located at 22 E Main Street in Elizabethville and are open Tuesday-Friday (10 am to 5 pm) and Saturday (10 am to 1 pm). So, if you are cleaning out please consider giving your donations to them. They may be dropped off during regular shop hours. (And if you are shopping for bargains stop there too!)

## Thanksgiving Feast ★

By Raymond Young

Thanksgiving is upon us! Below is a list of foods and beverages that you may be enjoying soon. Look for all of the words horizontally, vertically, and diagonally, and always in a straight line. After you have found them all, copy the uncircled letters into the ingredients list in the box. Then put on your apron and give the recipe a whirl. Bon appetit!

		Y D N A R B		
		D A L A S S F E H C		U N
P E S		G R E E N B E A N S E R		Y A L P E D
E S E		E G G N O G P U O T S A E T		O E P E S E B E C
E A L		M U F F I N S O R T E W D L E S		S L P W E P O M E
F G K		N H T L A Y V A R G T E L B I G		P S L S P P C Y L
F E C		E E S L C P E C A N P I E A B P N R		R R E E O E E H T
O S D M I		A K A L B A K E D H A M T R O N I L		O A P V R H T
C N R I P		E C U A S Y R R E B N A R C C I L O		P I I T
N E W		S I Q T O F U R K Y H O O A Y K P L		E L E N M
S		I H S S F I T I R E P A L R R P M L		K A O C O B
U S T		T C C A N A D A D R Y E L A R M U R		G L N H N A
R I R		C A N D I E D Y A M S S M E U D		L A E E R I
C N E		P Y D D O T T O H O W D E H P E		R M E E O T
H G D		B R A I S E D B E E F L C Y		M O R S C E
S A I		G E C A S S E R O L E S		A D G E L T
B L C		S T O R R A C A C K		P E E
		R P P E R I		

APERITIFS  
 APPLE PIE A LA MODE  
 BAKED HAM  
 BRAISED BEEF  
 BRANDY  
 BUTTER  
 CANADA DRY  
 CANDIED YAMS  
 CARAMEL  
 CARROTS

CASSEROLE  
 CHEESE  
 CHEF'S SALAD  
 CHERRY COBBLER  
 CHICKEN  
 CIDER  
 COFFEE  
 CORN ON THE COB  
 CRANBERRY SAUCE  
 DUMPLINGS

EGGNOG  
 GIBLET GRAVY  
 GREEN BEANS  
 GREEN OLIVES  
 HOT TODDY  
 ICED TEA  
 MUFFINS  
 PARSLEY  
 PECAN PIE  
 PEPPER

PICKLES  
 PUMPKIN PIE  
 ROASTED TURKEY  
 SAGE DRESSING  
 SCALLIONS  
 SQUASH  
 SWEET ROLLS  
 THYME  
 TOFURKY