

The Simeon Spirit
SIMEON UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH
Gratz, PA
May 2024

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Thirsting for the Living Water

I sit in my office in the heat of the day. The temperature outside is 85°. After weeks of the temperatures being in the 30° lows and highs only in the 40's, this is quite a change. I can get used to it. It was getting expensive running my heat all the way into April.

After a salty breakfast at Pine Creek Café, I am really thirsty. Please pardon me for a minute while I get some water...I'm back. Thanks.

This has put me in a reflective mood. It is not too often that we experience real thirst, parched, draining, a need which can only be satisfied by one thing: water. You can go weeks without food, but three to four days without water will bring you to the edge of death.

Pastor John Jewell tells the incredible true story of a young marine corporal named Joey Mora. In 1996, Joey Mora was standing on an aircraft carrier patrolling the Iranian Sea when he fell overboard. His absence was unnoticed for 36 hours. A search and rescue mission began, but was given up after another 24 hours. After all, no one could survive in the sea without a lifejacket for 60 hours. His parents were notified that he was "missing and presumed dead."

About 72 hours after he had fallen into the water, four Pakistani fishermen found Joey Mora. He was treading water in his sleep, clinging to a makeshift floatation device made from his trousers. He was delirious. His tongue was dry and cracked and his throat parched. About two years later, Mora spoke with Stone Philips on NBC Dateline and told his incredible story. He said it was God who kept him struggling to survive. The most excruciating thing of all? The one thought that took over his body and pounded in his brain was "Water!" In the middle of a billions upon billions of gallons of water, there was not a single drop to drink.

Water is life. The people of scripture understood this all too well. Israel and the surrounding Middle East is a land covered with seemingly endless deserts and dry rocky wastelands.

One of my favorite psalms reads: "As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God" (Psalm 45:1-3). The Psalmist was crying out in lament. He felt isolated from God who was the center of his hope and strength.

I think we can sympathize with the Psalmist. Like corporal Joey Mora, we at times find ourselves thirsting, yearning for new life in the middle of a sea with no relief. It may be stress and troubles which give us a thirst for something more. Other times we just fall into a loneliness and spiritual detachment yearning for a more a deeper, more meaningful life.

French philosopher, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin observes, “We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are **spiritual beings** having a human experience.” Until we embrace this truth, we will continue to finding ourselves wondering the deserts of life looking for something the world cannot provide.

The Psalmist understands the cause of his despair and writes, “so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God” When Jesus cried out “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me, drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'” This was not just some cleaver metaphor, but the hard reality of the spiritual connection we have for our God.

Haven't you ever had that yearning for the deeper waters of grace in a world of surface slush values and morality.

We connect to spiritual grace by attending to the many means of grace God has opened to us: prayer, quiet times of meditation with God, fellowship among the believers, receiving the body and blood of Christ in the Eucharist. Here is an idea, make it a habit once a week to seek out a peaceful place and spend the time not worrying about all the things you don't have, but give thanks to God for each and every blessing in your life.

Sure, this takes an intentional commitment. Doesn't anything of any value take the same? The life of the Spirit is a lifestyle, not just something we do when we have time, or things get bad. Let the living waters of the spirit flow and make life anew again and again. We are destined for higher things.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Greg

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FROM APRIL, 2024

OLD BUSINESS: *Cleaning Person*-Susan Krause has someone who may be interested but wants her to see what the cleaning duties are. Discussion was held and suggested to Susan if she is still interested in doing it to just hire her and get a start date.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Worship and Music**- Music Sunday is ready to go. Pentecost is on May 19, 2024 and Holy Trinity is on May 26, 2024. Pastor Greg has 3 to get confirmed on Pentecost. Will be having them do homework since they missed some classes. Tim talked to Larry from Columbia Organ Company about the contract for the organ renovation and he will get back to him next week since he is in Ohio this week doing organ work.

2. **Parish Education**- Pastor Greg mentioned that Lisa Perkins is doing an excellent job with the high schoolers and keeping them involved and coming to Sunday School.

3. **Stewardship and Evangelism** – Looking to have another Community Day. Lynn is trying to get some funding to help with the cost of it. He check with Link Bank and they said no, so he went to the Bird in Hand Bank, and they had him fill out some paper work for it and hopefully the will say yes. Everyone mentioned how the last one was well attended. Would like to put together a group to visit the shut-ins. Everyone said that would be great. Committee will discuss it further and get it set up. Would also like to get those people to also

help Pastor Greg with giving them communion on their visits. Pastor Greg and the committee will discuss it further.

4. **Social Ministry** – Had 14 families for the Foodbank in April. All families were very appreciative of the food.

5. **Youth** – Having a meeting on Sunday April 21, 2024 after church. Need to make a decision for the shirts for the youth gathering.

6. **Church Property** – Church Mutual Insurance Company had an inspector look over the property and do a risk control visit to see if we need to fix anything. Discussed the recommendations from the inspector. Need to do some roof repair. Sensor kit is to be coming next week.

7. **Budget and Finance** – Mike Hartman has contacted the MI Foundation to see if they would donate to the Organ Fund. They are interested but would like more information on the organ. Lynn Schadel is going to type up a history of the organ for them and hopefully they will donate. Susan Krause volunteered to go out to businesses in the community to see if any of them would contribute. She is going to take the information Lynn types up along for them to see the history. Lynn Schadle brought up about doing a pledge drive for members to contribute over a period of 12-18 months. Discussion was held and decided for Lynn to type something up for the newsletter and bulletin about it.

8. **Fellowship** – Talent show has some amazing acts. Lots of people signed up to bring food and show their talent. Has not received many response on the Mother's Day booklet of advice. The Murder Mystery for October 12, 2024, all the actors are booked and has people proof reading the script. The cookbook has had a great response for preorders and already sold about 230 copies just in preorders, may need to up the order from the original 300 they planned on ordering. It is at the printers and waiting on them to print the proof copy before printing the rest. Hoping for them by mid to late May.

9. **Mutual Ministry** – None

New Business – New guy Richie coming to church.

The Pastor's Time – Has a funeral on Saturday the 27th here at the church. Talked about the confirmation kids in the worship & Music report.

2024 GIVING

\$34,301.30

2024 EXPENSES

\$40,015.43

Difference between YTD Giving & YTD Expenses \$-5,714.13

{For General Operating Fund}

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 – *Amanda Marie Beiler, Sheri Johns, Joseph Laudenslager, Darlene Hain, Miriam Logan, Linda Sitlinger, Randy Rebeck, Blair Deitrich, Kathie Dresel, Dorothy Lettich Martin, Steve Dagen, Rahn Erdman, Jim Troutman*

SERVING IN MAY & JUNE

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
Glasses: Susan Krause

Altar: John Novinger
& 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

JUNE 2, 2024
2nd SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST w/
HOLY COMMUNION

Greeter: Jenny Sracic
Reader: Dennis Barge
Usher: Dave Strohecker
Glasses: Brenda Flynn

Altar: Sharon Erdman

JUNE 9, 2024
3rd SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST

Greeter: Anna Coleman
Reader: John Novinger

JUNE 16, 2024
4th SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST

Greeter: Darlene Novinger
Reader: Virginia Moore

JUNE 23, 2024
5th SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST

Greeter: Becky, Max, & Lincoln Hoover
Reader: John Novinger

JUNE 30, 2024
6th SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST

Greeter: Lynn Schadle
Reader: Barbara &
Keith Klinger

COOK BOOK PRE-ORDERS

A sign-up sheet is in the narthex. The cost is \$20.00 each. They make wonderful gifts for Birthdays, Anniversaries, Christmas, & any occasion. If you would like to order and can't make it to church, please call the church office at (717)365-3139 and leave a message.

SIMEON UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH

173 NORTH CENTER STREET

PO BOX 478

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.simeonchurch.org

YouTube channel: Simeon Church, Gratz PA

ELCA Website: www.elca.org

Lower Susquehanna Synod: www.lss-elca.org



UPCOMING EVENTS:

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!!!



Sunday, June 2 - Worship Service w/Holy Communion 10:15a.m. /Food Collection

Saturday, June 8 – Food Bank Open 9-11 a.m.

Sunday, June 9- Worship Service 10:15 a.m.

Monday, June 10th thru 14th Bible School will be held at the Gratz Park from 9-11a.m.

Friday, June 14 – Flag Day

Sunday, June 16 – Worship Service 10:15a.m. /Happy Father's Day /Church Picnic at the Gratz Park following worship

Wednesday, June 19 – Juneteenth National Independence Day

Thursday, June 20 – Council Meeting 7 p.m. /First Day of Summer!!!!

Friday, June 21 – Deadline For July/August Newsletter!!!!!!

Sunday, June 23 – Worship Service 10:15a.m.

Sunday, June 30 – Healing Worship Service 10:15a.m.

“VOICE OF SIMEON” RADIO MINISTRY SPONSORS

MAY 2024

May 5 – Buffington/Reed Funeral Home

May 12 – Willing Workers

May 19 – Ray & Jean Deppen

May 26 – Mr. & Mrs. Lynn Schadle

We thank our local businesses and individuals that sponsor our “Voice of Simeon” Radio Ministry. It can be heard each Sunday morning at 7:30 a.m. on WQLV-98.9 FM.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE FOOD BANK

Soup, soup, & more 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.



SPOTLIGHT ON OUR YOUTH

Dakota Boyer is on the Upper Dauphin High School Archery Team that Won 1st Place at States. Samantha Boyer place 6th in the 3D tournament and 8th in regular tournament. They are both going to compete in Nationals in May in Louisville, Kentucky, Dakota with the high school team and Samantha as an individual. GOOD LUCK!!!!



Jason Dively Received his Discovery Degree at the 69th Annual Upper Dauphin Area FFA Banquet on Thursday April 11, 2024. He is raising rabbits as his project for FFA. He also was part of the Middle School Team that Won 1st place in the FFA Knowledge contest at the Pennsylvania Farm Show in January.



MEET THE CAST OF
MAMMA MIA!
Cameron Smeltz
IS
Lisa

A junior, Cameron is excited to be making her stage debut! She is active at UDA as a member of choral ensemble, Trojanettes, Student Council, National Honor Society, and the volleyball team. Cameron's future plans are to attend college, majoring in elementary education.

www.tiny.cc/udamusic

Cameron Smeltz portrayed Lisa in Upper Dauphin High Schools Production of Mamma Mia.

Cameron Smeltz, Jason Dively, & Brooklynn Dively all participated in the Dauphin County Choral Music Festival on April 13, 2024 at the Form in Harrisburg. Cameron was part of the Senior High Chorus. Jason & Brooklynn were part of the Junior High Chorus.

The Cell Phone vs. The Bible

Ever wonder what would happen if we treated our bible like we treat our cell phone?

What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?

What if we flipped through it several times a day?

What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?

What if we used it to receive messages from the text?

What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?

What if we gave it to kids as gifts?

What if we used it when we traveled?

What if we used it in case of emergency?

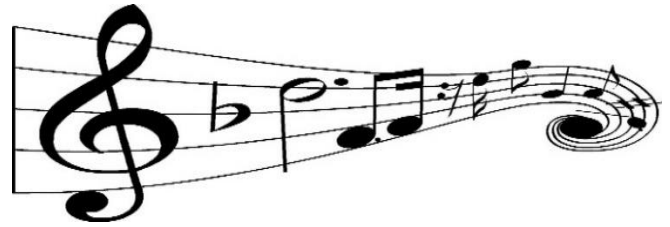
This is something to make you gohmm...where is my bible?

Oh, and one more thing. Unlike our cell phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill.

Makes you stop and think 'where are my priorities?'

Oh, and no dropped calls!

Music Notes



Abide With Me

1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
3 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes,

The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;

When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;

help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.
O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.
I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!
in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

Abide With Me

1847

Henry Francis Lyte, vicar in the fishing village of Lower Brixham, Devonshire, England, ministered faithfully for twenty-three years to his seafaring people.

Though a humble couple, he and his wife, Anne, lived in an elegant estate, Berry Head. It had reportedly been provided by King William IV, who had been impressed with Henry's ministry. At water's edge, its costal views were among the most beautiful on the British Isles. Henry laid out walking trails through the estate's forty-one acres and enjoyed the tranquility of the house and grounds. There he wrote most of his sermons, poems, and hymns.

But Henry's lung condition hung over the home like a blackening cloud. Lower Brixham suffered damp winters, and while in his early fifties Henry realized his lung disorder had deteriorated into tuberculosis. On September 4, 1847, age 54, he entered his pulpit with difficulty and preached what was to be his last sermon. He had planned a therapeutic holiday in Italy. "I must put everything in order before I leave," he said, "because I have no idea how long I will be away."

That afternoon he walked along the cost in pensive prayer then retired to his room, emerging an hour later with a written copy of "Abide With Me." Some accounts indicate he wrote the poem

during that hour; others say that he discovered it in the bottom of his desk as he packed for his trip to Italy, and that it had been written a quarter century earlier. Probably both stories are true. It is likely that, finding sketches of a poem he had previously started, he prayerfully revised and completed it that evening.

Shortly afterward, Henry embraced his family a final time and departed for Italy. Stopping in Avignon, France, he again revised "Abide With Me"—it was evidently much on his mind—and posted it to his wife. Arriving on the French Riviera, he checked into the Hotel de Angleterre in Nice, and there on November 20, 1847, his phthisic lungs finally gave out. Another English clergyman, a Rev. Manning of Chichester, who happened to be staying in the same hotel, attended him during his final hours. Henry's last words were, "Peace! Joy!"

When news of his death reached Brixham, the fishermen of the village asked Henry's son-in-law, also a minister, to hold a memorial service. It was on this occasion that "Abide With Me" was first sung.

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

Chefs Corner



Million Dollar Chicken Casserole

3 cups cooked chicken, diced	1 cup sour cream
1 can (10.5 oz.) cream of chicken soup	½ cup mayonnaise
1 cup mozzarella cheese	1 cup cheddar cheese
1 sleeve Ritz crackers, crushed	salt and pepper to taste
¼ cup unsalted butter, melted	

Preheat oven to 350*. Grease a 9x13-inch baking dish. In a large bowl, blend the cooked chicken, cream of chicken soup, sour cream, mayonnaise, cheddar cheese, and mozzarella cheese. Season with salt and pepper. Stir until everything is thoroughly mixed. Pour the chicken mixture into your prepared baking dish, smoothing it into an even layer. In a separate bowl, combine the crushed Ritz crackers with melted butter until the mixture is well coated. Evenly sprinkle the buttered cracker mixture over the chicken layer in the baking dish. Bake for 25-30 minutes, or until the casserole bubbles around the edges and the topping turns a delicious golden brown.

Kentucky Butter Cake Cookies

1 cup unsalted butter, softened	1 cup granulated sugar
2 large eggs	1 teaspoon vanilla extract
3 cups all-purpose flour	1 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt	powdered sugar, for dusting

Preheat oven to 350* and line a baking sheet with parchment. In a large bowl, beat the butter and sugar until fluffy. Add eggs one at a time, then vanilla, mixing well. In another bowl, whisk flour, baking powder, and salt. Gradually mix dry ingredients into the wet until a dough forms. Roll into 1-tablespoon balls and place on the baking sheet. Flatten slightly. Bake for 10-12 minutes until edges are golden. Let cool on the sheet, then transfer to a rack and dust with powdered sugar.

Creamy Mushroom Chicken and Wild Rice Soup

2 Tbsp. butter	1 lb. mushrooms, sliced
1 tablespoon butter	1 cup onion, diced
1 ½ cups carrots, diced	3 cups celery, diced
2 cloves garlic, chopped	6 cups chicken broth
1 cup wild rice	1½ cups chicken, cooked and diced
1 cup milk or cream	salt and pepper to taste
1 cup parmesan	

Melt the butter in a pan over medium-high heat, add the mushrooms and cook until the mushrooms have released their liquids, and the liquid has evaporated, about 10-15 minutes, before setting aside. Melt the butter in the pan, add the onions, carrots and celery and cook until tender, about 8-10 minutes. Mix in the garlic and thyme and cook until fragrant, about a minute. Add the broth, rice, chicken, and mushrooms, bring to a boil, reduce the heat and simmer, covered, until the rice is tender, about 20-30 minutes. Mix in the milk and cheese and cook until the cheese has melted, before seasoning with salt and pepper to taste.

EASTER EGG COLORING AND HUNT

