

# The Simeon Spirit

**SIMEON UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH**



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

**February 2023**

PO Box 478  
Gratz, PA 17030

Celebrating Our Faith  
Pastor Gregory Lindsey  
Church: (717) 365-3139  
Cell: (717) 521-9402

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## You are the Light

One of the geniuses of Jesus' teaching was its simplicity. Jesus was able to express profound eternal truths through colorful metaphors and parables.

In Matthew 5:13-20, Jesus teaches... "You are the salt of the earth."

Salt is life. Salt is valuable. Salt adds flavor and joy to life. Let us share that salt.

Jesus continues,

"You are the light of the world."

A bold statement, especially to his group of disciples who might have felt they were the lowest on the ladder of the world order. Jesus knew different. Jesus could see such power and potential that these people could not yet even imagine. He could see the light.

Jesus calls us to be a light to those spiritually blind to the Truth. Blind to knowing that there is a God who loves them as they are, no strings attached. Blind and trapped in a world darkened by the fear of death. People who struggle to find purpose and direction in their lives.

An analogy from my own experience:

When I was young and started deer hunting, I was the guy who was always getting lost. Especially in the mornings as I trekked my way before sunrise into the woods looking for my tree-stand. No matter how clear the directions I received seemed to be, I would end up wondering around in the dark, making enough noise to scare deer away for miles, and giving up only to sit down and wait until daybreak. Of course, I would look up and find that I was only ten feet away from the stand.

One evening, I was at one of the farthest stands away from Granny Dutton's house which served as our hunting lodge. Right at dusk (what my dad always called the witching hour for increased deer movement), I thought I heard something coming my direction. The sound of a small twig breaking. Perhaps the crackle of dry leaves on the ground. The tension grew and my imagination went wild. I was sure a big ten-point monster buck would step into the clearing at any moment.

Then there was nothing. All went completely quiet.

So intense I was on the watch, I didn't realize that it was now completely dark, and the cold was quickly creeping in. In that part of Grayson Country Virginia, houses are miles apart. There are very few roads and even less traffic. The whole world settled in silence. The woods I hunt in are a series of rolling ridges and hollows. Most of the ridges are covered with dense thickets of mountain laurel. Virtually impassable.

I began to make my way back, but soon every direction looked the same. My little flashlight only provided enough light to keep me from falling over a log or heading into a run of heavy brush or thorns. Then I realized that I was not even sure if I was heading North, South, East, or

West. That is when the fear set in. I began to panic and started walking faster, like that was going to help. Finally, I had to stop to catch my breath.

I looked around again, then something caught my eye. Way up on the top of a ridge near the horizon, I saw the slight twinkle of a light. I focused, and the light grew clearer. It was then I realized, I knew exactly what I was looking at. Years before, Granny Dutton had arranged to put up a flood light on a telephone pole to light the area around her house. The light would shine from dusk to dawn.

That light was my guide home. It revealed to me where I was going, but also where I currently was. Carefully I stepped my way through the woods home.

It is hard to appreciate the wonder of light unless you experience the fear of darkness. It is also difficult to appreciate what it means to be a light to the world unless we are conscious of how many people around us are living in worlds darkened by sin, illness, abuse, addiction, loneliness, and the looming fear of death. Ernest Hemingway once wrote, paraphrasing a line from Shakespeare's play 'Julius Caesar', "a coward dies a thousand deaths." I would add that anyone who lives a life fearing death also dies a thousand deaths.

You are the light of the world. You don't have to do anything to be that light. It is already a part of you as Christ is a part of your being and your knowledge of the Truth. You are a reflection of the true light of Jesus Christ.

Don't hold back. Let that light shine. Let someone know that they have value and are loved. Point them in the direction to a place where that light shines in the proclamation of the good news of the of Christ Jesus, the observance of the sacraments, and the fellowship of believers. Jesus needs us. Don't let him down.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

*Pastor Greg*

### **"VOICE OF SIMEON" RADIO MINISTRY SPONSORS**

#### **February 2023**

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

**February 8**– Willing Workers

**February 15** – Kessler-Hartman Family

**February 22** – Hoffmans 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.

### **THE NEW FLOWER & BULLETIN SPONSOR CHARTS**

are in the narthex. Please help by sponsoring them. If no one sponsors them the money comes out of the general fund which is not budgeted.

### **DAILY DEVOTIONALS**

The Daily Devotionals for January-March, 2023 are also available in the narthex. Pick yours up or have someone get them for you if you don't feel okay to come to church.

### **2023 CALENDARS ARE AVAILABLE**

The 2023 calendars have also been placed in the narthex. Again, ask someone to see that you get them, if you feel unsafe to come to church. God is with you, wherever you are, and He will see us through this pandemic. Have faith!!

## CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FROM JANUARY, 2023

**OLD BUSINESS:** Security cameras have been installed today, January 19, 2023. Discussion was held. Motion made by Lynn Schadle, seconded by Susan Krause to sign the contract for the iCloud. Approved.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** John Novinger discussed when committees should meet.

1. **Worship and Music** – Lenten Services were discussed. Will hold Ash Wednesday service. Tabled discussion regarding services made by Tracy Bixler seconded by Matthew Ferster. Approved.
2. **Parish Education**- Discussion regarding the eggs for the egg hunt.
3. **Stewardship and Evangelism** - Want to put a book together. Would like to hold another community day. Working with AA group that is held at the church. The AA group gave a donation to the church. Would like to work with the community on events and local organizations.
4. **Social Ministry** – Food Bank had 13 families in January.
5. **Youth** – January 28, 2023, possible snow tubing. January 29, 2023 is Youth Sunday.
6. **Church Property** –None.
7. **Budget and Finance** - Motion made for Pastor’s Housing Allowance of \$16,320.00, made by Tracy Bixler seconded by Doris Flynn. Approved.
8. **Fellowship** – Do away with Sunday lunches and would like to hold several events on Saturday nights and will open to the Community. Discussion was held regarding the fundraiser money that was made. Moving \$2,499.98 of the Basement Rehab to general fund. Church picnic will be held at the Gratz Park.
9. **Mutual Ministry** – NONE.

**New Business** – Discussion was held regarding the AED that was stolen and replacing it. Motion by Susan Krause and seconded by Virginia Moore to purchase a new AED unit and use the money moved from Basement Rehab to pay for it. Approved. Lynn will look into having CPR classes at the church.

**The Pastor's Time** – Chaplain funeral on January 20, 2023. 5 open spots for Radio Ministry.

**Open Discussion** – Discussion held regarding the Altar flowers.

### 2022 GIVING

\$133,618.61

### 2022 EXPENSES

\$137,436.27

**Difference between YTD Giving & YTD Expenses (\$ -3,817.66)  
{For General Operating Fund}**

### 2023 OFFICERS AND STAFF

**Pastor:** Gregory Lindsey

**Office Secretary:** Leah Schade

**Recording Secretary:** Sandra Matter

**Alternate Recording Secretary:** Leah Schade

**Organist/Choir Director:** Tim Ferster

**Videographers:** Bruce Koppenhaver, Bill Reed

**Sound Technician's:** Bill Reed, John Novinger, Darlene Novinger, Tim Daniel,

Andrew Romberger

**President:** John Novinger

**Vice-President:** Matt Ferster

**Treasurer:** Tracy Bixler

**Assistant Treasurer:** Dennis Barge

**Financial Secretary:** Darlene Novinger

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### FEBRUARY

**Thursday, Feb. 2** – Groundhog Day

**Sunday, Feb. 5** - Worship Service/ Holy Communion

**Saturday, Feb. 11** - Food Bank Open, 9 -11 a.m.

**Sunday, Feb. 12** - Worship Service/ Lincoln's Birthday

**Tuesday, Feb. 14** - Happy Valentine's Day

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

**Friday, Feb. 17** - Newsletter Deadline

**Sunday, Feb. 19** - Worship Service

**Wednesday, Feb. 22** – Ash Wednesday Service 7p.m./ Washington Birthday

**Sunday, Feb. 26** - Worship Service/ First Sunday in Lent

### MARCH

**Wednesday, March 1**- Mid Week Lenten Service 7 pm????

**Sunday, March 5** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent/Worship Service/ Holy Communion

**Wednesday, March 8** - Mid Week Lenten Service 7 pm????

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

**Sunday, March 12** – Daylight Savings Time/ 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent/Worship Service

**Wednesday, March 15** - Mid Week Lenten Service 7 pm????

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

**Friday, March 17** - Newsletter Deadline/ St. Patrick's Day

**Sunday, March 19** – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent/Worship Service

**Monday, March 20** – Spring Begins

**Wednesday, March 22**- Mid Week Lenten Service 7 pm????

**Sunday, March 26** – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent/Worship Service

**Wednesday, March 29** - Mid Week Lenten Service 7 pm????

## *The history of the holiday*

*St. Valentine's Day is a religious holiday. Do you know, who was St. Valentine? One of the legends says, he was a Christian priest, who had been thrown in prison for his teaching. On February, 14 Valentine was beheaded, not only because he performed a miracle—he cured the jailer's daughter from her blindness the night before he was executed—but he wrote a letter to the girl signing it «From your Valentine ».*



## SERVING IN FEBRUARY & MARCH

**FEBRUARY 5, 2023**  
**5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER**  
**EPIPHANY/ HOLY**  
**COMMUNION**

GREETER: John Novinger  
READER: Lynn Schadle  
USHER: Mike Hartman  
GLASSES: Karen Romberger  
ALTAR: Doris Flynn

**FEBRUARY 12, 2023**  
**6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER**  
**EPIPHANY**

GREETER: Leah Schade  
READER: Sharon Erdman

**FEBRUARY 19, 2023**  
**7<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER**  
**EPIPHANY**

GREETER: Mike Hartman  
READER: Jean Perkins

**FEBRUARY 22, 2023**  
**ASH WEDNESDAY**

GREETER:  
READER:

**FEBRUARY 26, 2023**  
**1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF**  
**LENT**

GREETER: Remington Schlegel  
READER: Mike Hartman

**MARCH 5, 2023**  
**2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF**  
**LENT/ HOLY**  
**COMMUNION**

GREETER: Cameron Smeltz  
READER: Steve Welker  
USHER: Matt Ferster  
GLASSES: Susan Krause  
ALTAR: John Novinger

**MARCH 12, 2023**  
**3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF**  
**LENT**

GREETER: Darlene Novinger  
READER: Jenny Sracic

**MARCH 19, 2023**  
**4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF**  
**LENT**

GREETER: Dave Strohecker  
READER: Dennis Barge

**MARCH 26, 2023**  
**5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF**  
**LENT**

GREETER: Virginia Moore  
READER: John Novinger

## PRAYER LIST

**Prayers requested for:** Carol Koppenhaver, Celin Sitlinger, Barb Klinger, Tim Ferster, Cathie Wilkinson, Tiffany Wilkinson, Clair & Vivian Engle, Jean Hess, David Hartman, Jim Neiswender, Kenneth, Mace, Dorothy Lettich Martin, Steve Dagen, Dan & Susan Ferster, Rahn Erdman, Marie Lahr, Christy Warfel, Jesse Cunningham

**Polk Apartments:** Helen Michael, John Kissinger, Charles Schoffstall

**Mt. Carmel Nursing & Rehab:** Ruby Leitzel

**Premier at Susquehanna Village:** Bonnie Miller

# Music Notes



## Jesus, Lover of My Soul

CHARLES WESLEY

SIMEON B. MARSH

1. Je - sus, Lov - er of my soul, Let me to Thy bos - om fly,  
2. Oth - er ref - uge have I none, Hangs my help-less soul on Thee;  
3. Thou, O Christ, art all I want; More than all in Thee I find;  
4. Plen-teous grace with Thee is found, Grace to cov - er all my sin;

While the near - er wa - ters roll, While the tem - pest still is high;  
Leave, ah, leave me not a - lone, Still sup - port and com - fort me.  
Raise the fall - en, cheer the faint, Heal the sick, and lead the blind.  
Let the heal - ing streams a - bound; Make and keep me pure with - in.

Hide me, O my Sav - ior, hide, Till the storm of life is past;  
All my trust on Thee is stayed, All my help from Thee I bring;  
Just and ho - ly is Thy name, I am all un - right - eous - ness;  
Thou of life the foun - tain art, Free - ly let me take of Thee;

Safe in - to the ha - ven guide, O re - ceive my soul at last.  
Cov - er my de - fense - less head With the shad - ow of Thy wing.  
Vile and full of sin I am, Thou art full of truth and grace.  
Spring Thou up with - in my heart, Rise to all e - ter - ni - ty. A - MEN.

1756, when at age 49, exhausted, he and Sally settled down. Charles busied himself preaching, visiting, counseling, fretting about his three unsaved children, trying to keep Methodism within the Church of England, and giving unsolicited advice to his brother, John. All the while, he worked on his hymns and poems.

By early 1788, Charles was bedfast, not from sickness but from a lifetime of fatigue. By March, too weak to write, he dictated his last hymn to Sally:

*In age and feebleness extreme, who shall a sinful worm redeem?  
Jesus, my only hope thou art, strength of my failing flesh and heart;  
Oh, could I catch a smile from Thee, and drop into eternity!*

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

## Jesus, Lover of My Soul

1740

Many stories have arisen around the writing of "Jesus, Lover of My Soul," but they all appear to be fictional. We don't know the exact occasion for his composition, but it was written shortly after Charles Wesley's conversion, and its words seem to anticipate the huge crowds, lawless mobs, midnight escapes, traveling dangers, and flea-infested beds he would encounter in coming years. Wesley's life, in brief, can be summed up as follows:

As the Methodist movement spread through England, Charles traveled horseback from place to place, an itinerant, homeless evangelist. His fiery preaching incited revival in some people and outrage in others.

In the midst of all this, his dear mother, Susanna, died on July 23, 1742. Her last words were, "Children, as soon as I am released, sing a psalm of praise to God." Later, preaching in Wales, Charles met Sally Gwynne, a beautiful girl half his age. A courtship followed, and Charles wanted to propose, but he was virtually penniless with no way of supporting a wife. That's when he decided to publish his *Hymns and Sacred Poems*, as well as his journals and sermons, hoping the royalties would provide an income. Charles and Sally were married on April 8, 1749, Charles noting: "Not a cloud was to be seen from morning till night. I rose at four, spent three hours and a half in prayer or signing with my brother.... At eight I led my Sally to church.... It was a most solemn season of love!"

They left immediately on a preaching tour, and Charles continued his itinerant ministry until

# Chefs Corner



## Baked Rigatoni Casserole

1lb. rigatoni pasta (cooked)  
2Tbsp fresh garlic minced  
1½ lb. shredded mozzarella  
2 cans tomato paste  
2 cans tomato sauce  
4 cups water

2lb. Italian sausage (bulk)  
1 tsp. oregano  
Parmesan cheese  
1tsp. basil  
2tbsp. sugar  
salt & pepper to taste

Brown sausage with garlic, salt, pepper. Add tomato paste, tomato sauce, water, oregano, basil, and sugar. Simmer for 1½ hours. In a casserole dish (5quart) put a layer of sauce mix, a layer of rigatoni, a layer of mozzarella, sprinkle parmesan cheese. Repeat layers 2 more times. Cover and bake in oven at 300\* for about 30-45 minutes.

## Buster Bar Pie

1(15oz) pkg. Oreo  
1 stick butter  
1 jar butterscotch-caramel sauce  
1 (12oz.) cool whip

2 cups peanuts  
½ gallon vanilla ice cream  
1(8oz.) can Hershey's fudge sauce

Crush Oreos and reserve ½ cup for topping pie. Melt butter, pour over Oreos and press into a 9x13-inch pan then bake at 350\* for 3 minutes, let cool. Once cooled layer the ice cream on top. Put in freezer until hard. Spread fudge topping on ice cream and sprinkle with peanuts to cover. Drizzle butterscotch-caramel over nuts. Spread cool whip on top then sprinkle with reserved Oreos. Put I freezer for several hours or overnight. Before serving let stand at room temperature for 10 minutes or till able to slice with ease.

## Taco Soup

1 lb. ground beef  
½ cup chopped onion  
3 cups shredded cheddar cheese  
2(16oz.) cans kidney beans  
1(16oz.) can tomato sauce

1 pkg. taco seasoning  
1(29oz.) can diced tomatoes  
corn chips  
sour cream

Cook beef and onion until browned, drain off excess fat. Add taco seasoning, tomatoes and the juice, tomato sauce, and undrained kidney beans. Simmer for 20-30 minutes. Serve in a bowl topped with cheese, chips, and sour cream.

GRATZ UNION CEMETERY ASSOCIATION, INC.  
Gratz. PA 17030

November 30, 2021 To December 31, 2022

Balance-November 30, 2021	6,209.61
Income:	
Sale of Lots	6,300.00
Burial Rights	250.00
Grave Open/Close	2,700.00
Grave Up-keep Fee	1,800.00
Now Account Interest	19.83
Year 2021 Gas Credit	50.00
Year 2021 Duplicate Insurance Donation	650.00
Refuse Removal	150.00
Total Income	11,919.83
Expenses:	
Jerry Welker, Lawn Care	1,443.00
Lawn Care-Trimming	695.50
Gas	400.00
Jerry Welker, Appreciation Bonus	300.00
Snyder's Engine & Repair	300.94
Kris Mattern	245.65
Schreffler Equipment	238.89
Country Turf & Trail-Trimmer Head	121.35
Mowing-Vacant Field	25.00
Metal Detector	145.21
Celin Sitlinger-Grave Open/Close	4,855.00
SUL-Church Mutual Insurance	260.00
Sandy Kissinger-Secretary Fee	420.00
Sausser's Monument Repair	1,435.00
SUL Insurance Donation	650.00
SUL Refuse Removal Donation	150.00
Postage-Copier-Stakes	73.94
Total Expenses	11,759.48
Balance-December 31, 2022	6,369.96

INVESTMENTS

Ameriprise Financial	333,259.11
ELCA Mission Investment Fund	89,321.61
C J Umholtz Memorial	17,177.52