

The Simeon Spirit

SIMEON UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH

173 North Center Street, Gratz, PA

OCTOBER -2024

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Pastor's Message

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. (2 Corinthians 5:17-20)

This has always been one of my favorite passages from scripture, especially from St. Paul's letters. I am also proud that "Ambassadors for Christ" is the vision statement for the Virginia Synod from which I came.

Paul's two letters to the church in Corinth that have been preserved in scripture provide a unique look into Paul, the apostle and the person. It also gives us an extraordinary look into the struggles and conflict in a young church in the first century.

Paul loved his people, but the church at Corinth tested his patience and confidence almost to the breaking point. To begin with, the city of Corinth was renowned for its sexual promiscuity and idolatry all over the Roman world. Temptation to stray from their faithfulness towards Christ was always just around the corner. Yet the most serious issues with the Corinthians were internal strife over leadership and loyalty.

Most times when Paul was visiting, everything seemed alright. But in his absence things began to meltdown. Paul started his letter known as 1 Corinthians immediately with the latest crises:

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas (Peter)," or "I belong to Christ." Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? (1 Corinthians 1:10-13)

The point that Paul would continually drive into the minds of the people of this church was that It wasn't about Paul, or Peter, or any other member of the congregation. Everything is about Christ. The only purpose of the church was to gather in unity to worship and service in the name of Jesus Christ. It is in 1 Corinthians that Paul gives the analogy of the church as being the one body of Christ and each person as a member or a part of that body. Division within the body was analogous to a diseased body, broken and dying. Paul's appeal was urgent. Be reconciled to each other and with God and thus bring much needed healing and peace to the body of Christ.

Today our country and church are facing a time of unprecedented change and division. Racial conflict and violence fills the front pages of our newspapers. The church is under attack from the media, special interest groups, and the academia who find offense with any public expression of our faith. Our children are being polluted by an increasing and more aggressive number of unpatriotic and atheistic teachers and professors.

If we are to stand strong against these negative forces, we must do it together in unity. Our nation and church are in a desperate need of reconciliation. Only God can bring healing to a broken world. God gives us the strength to confidently proclaim Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior in the face of even the meanest of opposition. For we are ambassadors for Christ. Making our appeal for unity within the body of Christ, which is his church, and proclaiming that the only real hope for our world is found in the love of God manifested in the death and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

We are the Church. We are ambassadors for Christ. We are the bearers of the Truth.

We make no compromises with the enemies of Truth.

Your Fellow Servant in Christ,

Pastor Greg

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FROM, SEPTEMBER 2024

OLD BUSINESS: (organ fund-MI foundation) Discussion was had on the information that was sent to MI Foundation. Mike is going to get it to them by Friday the 13th. This event has been cancelled for this year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Worship and Music**- Harvest Sunday & Pastor Appreciation Sunday is October 13th. Reformation Sunday is October 27th. All Saints Sunday & Bishop visit on November 3rd.
2. **Parish Education**- Rally Day did not have many kids in attendance. Has 1 person for confirmation class. Going to come up with a schedule to have a one on one with her once or twice a month and have confirmation class combine with the adult Sunday school class the rest of the time.
3. **Stewardship and Evangelism** – None
4. **Social Ministry** – Foodbank has been averaging about 14 families a month lately.
5. **Youth** – Plans are in the works for another haunted house at the park, for trick or treat night in Gratz on October 31. This year's theme is Haunted Farm. Possibly going to do a corn maze just need to pick a date.

6. **Church Property** – Carl has redid the pipe for the dehumidifier in the basement for it to drain into the drain by the basement kitchen door. Matt and John are going to get together to look at fixing the roof over the steps to the kitchen.

7. **Budget and Finance** – The organ fund as of the end of August has \$37,698.78 in it. The cook book money has not yet been moved into that account. Discussion was had on the youth group matching money from their fundraising. The total raised was 1,817.50. Motion was made to pay the matching amount by Susan Krause and seconded by Deb Trautman. Approved. Tracy will transfer the matching funds to their account.

8. **Fellowship** – Soup Sunday is November 3rd after church.

9. **Mutual Ministry** – None

10. **Nominating** – The committee consist of those coming of council this year. They are Tracy Bixler, Matthew Ferster, Doris Flynn, Susan Krause, John Novinger, and Lynn Schadle. They nominated Susan Krause as their chairperson. They need 5 people to serve a 2 year term.

New Business – None

The Pastor's Time – He has started a new visitation log and going to try to keep it up to date. There will be a baptism on Sunday, September 22, 2024 for Raya June Conrad, the daughter of Sharda and Zeke Conrad.

<u>2024 GIVING</u>	<u>2024 EXPENSES</u>
\$87,956.73	\$101,839.39
Difference between YTD Giving & YTD Expenses \$-13,882.66	
{For General Operating Fund}	



Members – Craig Schwartz, Marlin Erdman, Celin Sitlinger, Jack Reed, Julie Ferster, 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 – *Tricia Hile Rebuck, Ken Keiter, Miriam Logan, Jon Bower, Jeff Latsha, Shirley Reed, Linda Sitlinger, Randy Rebuck, Blair Deitrich, Kathie Dresel, Dorothy Lettich Martin, Steve Dagen, Jim Troutman*

SERVING IN OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

October 6, 2024
20th Sunday after
Pentecost w/
Holy Communion
Greeter: Susan Krause
Reader: Doris Flynn
Usher: Dave Strohecker
Glasses: Becky Hoover
Altar: Lynn Schadle

October 13, 2024
21st Sunday after
Pentecost *Harvest Sunday/ Pastor Appreciation Day!!!!*
Greeter: Darlene Novinger
Reader: Dennis Barge

October 20, 2024
22nd Sunday after
Pentecost
Greeter: Dave Strohecker
Reader: Jason Dively

October 27, 2024
Reformation
Sunday w/
Holy Communion
Greeter: Dennis Barge
Reader: Barbara & Keith Klinger
Usher: Lynn Schadle
Glasses: Tracy Bixler
Altar: Dennis Barge

November 3, 2024
All Saints
Sunday w/
Holy Communion
Greeter: Deb Trautman
Reader: Becky Hoover
Usher: Matt Ferster
Glasses: Linda Koppenhaver
Altar: John Novinger
& Dennis Barge

November 10, 2024
25th Sunday after
Pentecost
Greeter: Lynn Schadle
Reader: Mike Hartman

November 17, 2024
26th Sunday after
Pentecost
Greeter: Becky, Max, & Lincoln Hoover
Reader: Dennis Barge

November 24, 2024
Christ the King
Sunday w/
Holy Communion
Greeter: Barbara & Keith Klinger
Reader: John Novinger
Usher: Mike Hartman
Glasses: Susan Krause
Altar: Doris Flynn

November 27, 2024
Thanksgiving Eve
Greeter:
Reader: Virginia Moore

“VOICE OF SIMEON” RADIO MINISTRY SPONSORS OCTOBER 2024

October 6 – Buffington/Reed Funeral Home
October 13– Willing Workers
October 20 – James A. Reed Funeral Home
October 27 – Hoffman’s Hatchery

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.

SIMEON UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH

173 NORTH CENTER STREET

PO BOX 478

GRATZ, PA 17030

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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, October 6 - Worship Service w/Holy Communion /Food Collection-10:15 a.m.

Saturday, October 12 - Food Bank Open, 9-11 a.m.

Sunday, October 13 – Harvest Sunday/ Pastor Appreciation Worship Service-10:15 a.m.

Monday, October 14 – Columbus Day

Wednesday, October 19 – National Boss Day

Thursday, October 17 - Council Meeting 7 p.m.

Friday, October 18 - Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, October 20 - Worship Service-10:15 a.m.

Sunday, October 27 –Reformation Sunday Worship Service w/Holy Communion-10:15 a.m.

Thursday October 31 Reformation Day /Happy Halloween

***Little Hands Nursery School Halloween Parties October 30th & 31st ***



Wednesday, November 1- All Saints Day

Sunday, November 3 - All Saints Sunday Worship Service & Bishop visit w/Holy Comm.
/Food Collect/Fellowship after church w/soup & sandwiches.

Tuesday, November 5 – Election Day

Saturday, November 9 - Food Bank Open, 9-11 a.m.

Sunday, November 10 – Music Sunday Worship Service 10:15am

Monday, November 11 – Veterans Day

Sunday, November 17 - Healing Worship Service 10:15am

Thursday, November 21 - Council Meeting 7 p.m.

Friday, November 22 – December Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, November 24 – Christ the King Sunday Worship Service w/Holy Comm. 10:15am

Wednesday, November 27- Thanksgiving Eve Service 7p.m.

Thursday, November 28- HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!!!!!

Saturday, November 30 – Decorate the Church 9:00a.m.

BISHOP VISIT AND FELLOWSHIP

On Sunday November 3rd, 2024 our Bishop, the Rev. James S. Dunlop, will be joining us for worship to celebrate All Saints Sunday. Following the service a Dinner will be held downstairs in the fellowship hall with a meal consisting of Soup, Sandwiches, and Desserts. Soup & Sandwiches will be provided, please bring a Dessert for sharing. Let's show the Bishop how "Lutherans" can cook here in Northern Dauphin County.

Chefs Corner



French Silk Brownies

Brownie layer

1 box brownie mix (not prepared)
5½ Tbsp butter, melted

1 egg
¼ cup of milk

French Silk Layer

8 oz. cream cheese, softened
2 cups powdered sugar
¼ cup butter (cut into cubes)

1 tsp. vanilla
4 oz. semi-sweet chocolate
8 oz. Cool Whip (thawed)

Topping

8 oz. Cool Whip (thawed)

mini chocolate chips for garnish

Preheat your oven to 350* and spray a 9x13 inch baking dish with non-stick spray. In a medium bowl, mix together the brownie mix, egg, melted butter, and milk until it's smooth. Spread this batter evenly into the prepared baking dish. Bake 25-28 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean. Remove and let cool completely. In a large mixing bowl, beat the cream cheese and vanilla until they are smooth and creamy. Gradually add the powdered sugar, mixing until everything is well combined. In a microwave-safe bowl, heat the semi-sweet chocolate and cubed butter in 30-second intervals, stirring each time until it melts and becomes smooth. Add the melted chocolate mixture to the cream cheese mixture, stirring until everything is thoroughly combined. Gently fold in the Cool Whip until it's evenly incorporated. Spread the French silk mixture evenly over the cooled brownies in the baking dish. Spread the remaining Cool Whip over the French silk layer. Sprinkle mini chocolate chips over top and refrigerate for 3 hours to set. Cut and serve chilled.

Creamy Garlic Parmesan Pasta with Spinach and Mushrooms

2 Tbsp. olive oil
8 oz. mushrooms, sliced
2 cups heavy cream
3 cups fresh spinach leaves
Salt and pepper, to taste

4 cloves garlic, minced
4 cups chicken broth
1 lb. fettuccine pasta
1 cup grated Parmesan cheese

Heat olive oil in a large pot over medium heat, add minced garlic and cook about 1-2 minutes then add mushrooms to the pot and cook until they are tender and lightly browned, about 5-7 minutes. Pour in chicken broth and heavy cream. Stir well to combine. Add fettuccine pasta, ensuring it's submerged in the liquid. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat and simmer for 10-12 minutes until pasta is al dente, stirring occasionally. Stir in spinach until wilted, about 1-2 minutes then add the parmesan cheese to the pot, stirring until melted and sauce is creamy. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

HARVEST SUNDAY

We will be celebrating Harvest Sunday on October 13th. We thank God for his bountiful goodness by bringing canned goods and other items to display up front on shelves. The food items will go to the Gratz Food Bank. Thanks for your support.

PASTOR APPRECIATION SUNDAY

Sunday October 13th is pastor appreciation Sunday.

Thank You Pastor Greg for all you do for us here at Simeon United Lutheran Church.

Please consider the following: **God doesn't call the qualified, he qualifies the called.** Your pastor may need time to learn and develop certain skills. (Everyone does!) Bless Pastor Greg with your patience. **We don't change the message; the message changes us.** You probably won't like all your pastor's sermons or newsletter columns. But instead of complaining, ponder that something may rub you the wrong way because God is trying to change you. Keep an open mind and heart. **If a church wants a "better" pastor, it just needs to pray for the one it has.** Pray often and caringly for your pastor. The role is challenging, so support him spiritually and ask God to reveal his love and grace to him.

REFORMATION SUNDAY

Reformation Sunday October 27th, is a time to remember and give thanks for Martin Luther. October 31st, 2024--marks the 507th anniversary of the start of the Protestant Reformation, when Martin Luther posted his "95 Theses" on a church door in Germany. Because this is a Festival day, Holy Communion is being celebrated.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE FOOD BANK

Cereal, tuna, cake mix, & peanut butter

DAILY DEVOTIONALS

The Daily Devotionals for (October - December, 2024) are available in the narthex. Pick yours up or have someone get them for you.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Raya June Conrad was baptized on Sunday, September 22, 2024. She is the daughter of Sharda & Zeek Conrad, & was born on June 18, 2024. Her Sponsors/Godparents are Shayna & Kevin Savage. Grandparents are Elizabeth (Liz) Martz & Garry Martz. Great-grandparents are Jack & Ginny Reed. We pray God's blessing on her and her family.

Music Notes



Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 1758

1 Come, thou Fount of ev - ry bless - ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Hith - er - to thy love has blessed me, thou hast drawn me to this place;
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be!

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
and I know thy hand will lead me safe - ly home by thy good grace.
Let thy good - ness, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - d'ring heart to thee:

Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove.
Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger, wan - d'ring from the fold of God;
prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

Praise his name, I'm fixed up - on it, name of God's re - deem - ing love.
he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, bought me with his pre - cious blood.
here's my heart, O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Robert Robinson had a rough beginning. His father died when he was young, and his mother, unable to control him, sent him to London to learn barbering. What he learned instead was drinking and gang-life. When he was 17, he and his friends reportedly visited a fortune-teller. Relaxed by alcohol, they laughed as she tried to tell their fortunes. But something about the encounter bothered Robert, and that evening he suggested to his buddies they attend the evangelistic meeting being held by George Whitefield.

Whitefield was one of history's greatest preachers, with a voice that was part foghorn and part violin. That night he preached from Matthew 3:7: "But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" Bursting into tears, Whitfield exclaimed, "Oh, my hearers! The wrath to come! The wrath to come!"

Robert immediately sobered up and sensed Whitfield was preaching directly to him. The preacher's words haunted him for nearly three years, until December 10, 1755, when he gave his heart to Christ.

Robert soon entered the ministry, and three years later at age 23, while serving Calvinist Methodist Chapel in Norfolk, England, he wrote a hymn for his sermon on Pentecost Sunday. It was a prayer that the Holy Spirit flood into our hearts with His streams of mercy, enabling us to sing God's praises and remain faithful to Him. "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing," has been a favorite of the church since that day.

Robinson continued working for the Lord until 1790, when he was invited to Birmingham, England, to preach for Dr. Joseph Priestly, a noted Unitarian. There, on the morning of June 8, he was found dead at the age of 54, having passed away quietly during the night.

Take a few moments to offer this hymn as a personal prayer, especially remembering those last insightful lines:

*Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love:
Her's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.*

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

In Honor of Pastor Appreciation Month
Here are the ABC's on how to treat your Pastor!!!!!!

Accept them as people.

Build them up. Say "thank you."

Communicate with them.

Defend them when someone tries to run them down.

Entertain them. They like to have fun, too!!

Family. Allow them to have a family life.

Genuine. Be honest with them. Be yourself around them.

Honor them. Don't put them on a pedestal, but respect them.

Income. Pay them enough so money isn't a concern.

Judge not! Avoid being critical.

Kind. Treat pastors as you want to be treated.

Love. See 1Corinthians 13.

Maintain. Their families have the same needs as other families.

Nurture. Help them grow in grace.

Offer to help. The list of things you can do is endless.

Pray for them. Lift up their names to God daily.

Quelch not. Encourage instead!

Rejoice in and with them.

Surprise them—in little and big ways.

Trust them. Believe in them

Understand them. Put yourself in their place.

Vacation. They need time away.

Welcome them into your home. Don't wait for an invitation.

eXpend yourself, not them.

Yoke. Help them bear their burdens with grace and dignity.

Zap all Gossip!!!!!!!

