

Jesus, and that is the same for us. Life keeps happening. Easter is now and continues forever.

But that's not all. If Jesus had not been resurrected, would the world even know he existed? Perhaps Jesus would have been a side note in one of the volumes of history for the period written by someone like the renown Jewish historian Titus Flavius Josephus.

Jesus' resurrection may have made him known to the world, but as Christians studied the scriptures and thought and talked about what Jesus had said, they began to understand that it was Jesus death on the cross which was the focal point of Jesus' life and indeed world history. In the resurrection we see the power of God. In Jesus death, we see the love of God. For God, power is easy. But giving of his Son to die, that was hard. It was God's promise that no price was too much and no sacrifice too great.

Indeed, Jesus's death has made him famous. Once an instrument of torture and death, the cross became the symbol of love and life to all the world. Christ gave his life for us. Christ is Risen. He is Risen Indeed! So that we also may no more die.

Let's celebrate together Easter morning. See you at Simeon!

Yours in the Risen Lord,

Pastor Greg

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARCH, 2025

OLD BUSINESS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Worship and Music**- April 13, 2025- Palm Sunday service with Holy Communion, April 17, 2025- Maundy Thursday service at 7pm with Holy Communion, April 18, 2025- Good Friday service at 7pm, April 20, 2025- Easter service with Holy Communion. Last day to order Easter flowers is March 30, 2025. Haven't heard anything on the organ so let's hope no news is good news.

2. **Parish Education**- Easter egg hunt April 19, 2025, 10 am sharp at the Gratz park. Coloring eggs Friday the 18th at 9am. The eggs were donated by Sauder eggs in Hegins.

3. **Stewardship and Evangelism** – The Historical Society is having a dinner on Saturday April 5, 2025 at the community Dinner, with a presentation on the Amish in the valley. Bill gave a printout of the number of people that have checked out the Website. Numbers were exceptionally good. Need 4 more sponsors for the radio for Sundays. Dates still available are September 21 & 28, October 19, and December 21.

4. **Social Ministry** – Had 15 people for the foodbank. Still need HELP on the Saturdays its open and to help do a cleaning when a date has been decided on. If you can help, please see Lisa Perkins.

5. **Youth** – Talked about going bowling sometime, need to find a date when everyone is available to go. Went to see the Musical “Anastasia” at the High School to see Jason and Camron as a group.

6. **Church Property** – Projects working on- 1. Front steps need to be resealed. 2. Matt is getting measurements for the roof over kitchen basement entrance. Need to pick a color for it, if you have a color, you would like tell it to Matt. A place in Berrysburg does one piece metal no roll tin for the roof. 3. Lift is scheduled to do its drop test on Friday March 28, 2025 at 9:30 am. 4. Need to find someone to take care of the flower beds around the church. Going to put in Newsletter and Bulletin asking for any volunteers. 5. Mini Splits for the Sanctuary- Carl gave information on what they do verses Humidifiers. What will we need? Need to find out what Humidity level we need for the organ before we can go further. Carl said after we find that out, he will get some people he knows to give us more information.

7. **Budget and Finance** – Received a letter asking for a donation to the Gratz Fire Company. A motion to give a \$100.00 donation was made by Brenda Flynn and Seconded by Sharon Erdman. Approved. Tracy aske to get another locking file cabinet to put financial stuff in cause the one we have is full and she is using pastor Greg & Tim’s file cabinets to store things in. Carl thinks he can get one. Discussion was had on how we are going to memorialize the Organ Restoration names of People who donated towards the work. Decided to get a plaque to display the name of all those who have contributed to hang in the Narthex. Motion made by Carl Slough and seconded by Brenda Flynn. Approved.

8. **Fellowship** – Card ministry continues and has added members of family (spouses etc.) of church members. Has gotten good feedback from recipients that it is good to know they aren’t forgotten. Murder Mystery – is on track and happy that many members have volunteered their time as actors, kitchen staff, and as set and table design. Church picnic this year is set for August 24, 2025 at the, Gratz Park. Looking ahead to 2026 the picnic is set for September 13, 2026, the Sunday after Labor day. Vacations will mostly be over and kids in school so the attendance will hopefully be good. Community outreach charity function – in September we’ll be collecting donations of paper products, unscented or low scent body wash and bar soap to be donated to the Upper Dauphin Human Services Center. We have a very strong committee of people dedicated to keeping the Simeon Spirit alive.

9. **Mutual Ministry** – Mike is going to be scheduling a meeting.

New Business – need to decide on April meeting since the third Thursday is Maundy Thursday with service. Decided on Thursday April 24, 2025.

The Pastor's Time – Synod assembly is June 5-7, 2025 at St. Matthews Evangelical Lutheran Church in York. Pastor Greg asked if anyone would like to attend with him since it’s the year we elect a Bishop. Discussion was had about previous years people that have gone and the experience they had. Will said he would go with him and Tracy said she would see if she could get off work to go with.

2025 GIVING

\$20,573.78

2025 EXPENSES

\$28,647.55

Difference between YTD Giving & YTD Expenses \$-8,073.77

{For General Operating Fund}

SERVING IN APRIL & MAY

April 6, 2025

5th Sunday

In Lent w/

Holy Communion

Greeter: Matt Ferster

Reader: Doris Flynn

Usher: Mike Hartman

Glasses: Becky Hoover

Altar: John Novinger

April 13, 2025

Palm Sunday

w/ Holy

Communion

Greeter: John Novinger

Reader: Becky Hoover

Usher: Dave Strohecker

Glasses: Brenda Flynn

Altar: Susan Krause

April 17, 2025

Maundy

Thursday w/

Holy Communion

Greeter: Virginia Moore

Reader: Mike Hartman

Usher: Lynn Schadle

Glasses: Tracy Bixler

Altar: Dennis Barge

April 18, 2025

Good Friday

Greeter: Susan Krause

Reader: Nathen Steinbach & Pastor Greg

April 20, 2025

Easter

Sunday w/

Holy Communion

Greeter: Anna Coleman

Reader: Dennis Barge

Usher: Matt Ferster

Glasses: Susan Krause

Altar: Doris Flynn &

Lynn Schadle

April 27, 2025

2nd Sunday of

Easter

Greeter: Lisa Perkins

Reader: Barbara Klinger

May 4, 2025

3rd Sunday of

Easter w/

Holy Communion

Greeter: Sandra Matter

Reader: John Novinger

Usher: Dave Strohecker

Glasses: Virginia Moore

Altar: Sharon Erdman

May 11, 2025

4th Sunday of

Easter

Greeter: Darlene Novinger

Reader: Virginia Moore

May 18, 2025

5th Sunday of

Easter

Greeter: Brooklynne Dively

Reader: Tracy Bixler

May 25, 2025

6th Sunday of

Easter

Greeter: Dave Strohecker

Reader: Keith Klinger

SIMEON UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH

173 NORTH CENTER STREET

PO BOX 478

GRATZ, PA 17030

Rev. Gregory B. Lindsey, Pastor

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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:



Tuesday, April 1 – Happy April Fool’s Day!!

Wednesday, April 2 – Bible Study 7pm

Sunday, April 6 – Worship Service w/Holy Communion 10:15a.m. /Food Collection 10:15a.m.

Wednesday, April 9 – Bible Study 7pm

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

Sunday, April 13 – Palm Sunday Worship Service 10:15a.m

*** Little Hands Easter parties Mon. & Tue. April 14 & 15*

Thursday, April 17 – Maundy Thursday Service w/Holy Communion 7 p.m.

Friday, April 18 – Color Easter Eggs 9 a.m. /Deadline For May Newsletter /Good Friday Service 7 pm

Saturday, April 19 – Easter Egg Hunt 10 a.m. at the Gratz Park

Sunday, April 20 – EASTER Worship Service w/Holy Communion 10:15a.m.

Tuesday, April 22 – Earth Day

Wednesday, April 23 - Administration Professionals Day!!

Thursday, April 24 – Council Meeting 7 p.m.

Saturday, April 26 – Happy Arbor Day!!

Sunday, April 27 –Worship Service 10:15a.m



Sunday, May 4 – Worship Service w/Holy Communion 10:15a.m. /Food Collection

Saturday, May 10 – Food Bank Open 9-11 a.m.

Sunday, May 11 –Worship Service 10:15a.m / Happy Mother’s Day

Thursday, May 15– Council Meeting 7 p.m. /Little Hands Moving up Program

Friday, May 16 – Deadline For June Newsletter!!!!

Saturday, May 17 – Armed Forces Day!!!

Sunday, May 18 – Music Sunday Worship Service 10:15a.m /Little Hands Graduation

*** Little Hands last days of School Mon. & Tue. May 19 & 20***

Sunday, May 25 – Worship Service 10:15a.m

Monday, May 26 – Happy Memorial Day!!!

Thursday, May 29- Ascension of Our Lord

FOOD COLLECTION is the first Sunday of every month. The Food Bank is open on the second Saturday of every month, from 9 to 11a.m.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE FOOD BANK are instant mashed potatoes, canned fruit, ketchup, canned tuna & canned chicken. Thanks for your continued support.

IN NEED OF A GARDENER- John & Carla Hoffman retired from taking care of the flower beds around the church after many, many years. We are looking for someone or people who would be willing to take this over. If you are interested, please talk to Matthew Ferster or John Novinger.

DAILY DEVOTIONALS

The Daily Devotionals for (April - June, 2025) are available in the narthex. Pick yours up or have someone get them for you.

BIBLE STUDY

We are having Bible Study again during Lent in place of a Wednesday night service. The topic this year is Genesis and titled "In the Beginning!" Please join us at 7 pm on Wednesday Evenings.

THE 2025 FLOWER & BULLETIN SPONSOR CHARTS

The new 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. If you would like to sponsor them and can't, make it to church please call the church office and leave a message at (717)-365-3139 or Email Tim at sulc.angel80@gmail.com. The price to sponsor the flowers is \$41 for both vases and \$21 for one. The bulletins are \$18 for all or \$9 for half.

RADIO SPONSORS ARE STILL NEEDED for the following dates in 2025. *September 21, September 28, October 19, & December 21.* If you sponsored a Sunday in the past, we did not carry individuals over, only Business's. If you would like to sponsor any of these dates, please contact Tracy Bixler at 1-570-449-3532 or email at bix@epix.net. Cost is \$50.00 a Sunday.

"VOICE OF SIMEON" RADIO MINISTRY SPONSORS

March

March 30 – In memory of Barbara Hartwig
This was sponsored after the newsletter was printed.

April 2025

April 6 – Buffington/Reed Funeral Home
April 13 – Willing Workers
April 20 – Bellevue Bees
April 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.



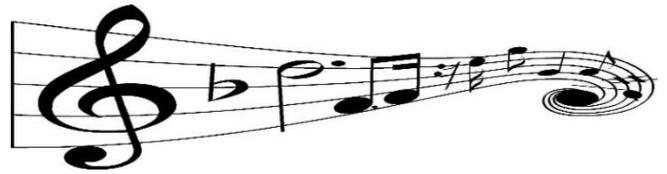
Members – Linda Koppenhaver, Rosalie Fetterolf, Julie Ferster, Janet Rumfelt, Barbara Klinger, Marie Lahr, Clair & Vivian Engle

Northern Dauphin Nursing & Rehab. - Kenneth Mace

Polk Apartments - Martha Koppenhaver, Charles Schoffstall

Friends & Family – Shirley Bixler, Dean Harner, Norman Lahr Sr., Ester Stoltzfus, Jon Bower, Sherry Johns, Jeff Latsha, Linda Sitlinger, Randy Rebuck, Dorothy Deitrich, Kathie Dresel, Dorothy Lettich Martin, Steve Dagen, Jim Troutman

Music Notes



Isaac Watts, 1719

Jesus Shall Reign

John Hatton, 1793

1. Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
2. To Him shall end - less prayer be made, and end - less
3. Peo - ple and realms of eve - ry tongue dwell on His
4. Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er He reigns; the pris - ners
5. Let eve - ry crea - ture rise and bring their grate - ful

ces - sive jour - neys run; His king - dom spread from
prais - es crown His head; His name like sweet per -
love with sweet - est song, and in - fant voic - es
leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
hon - ors to our King. An - gels de - scend with

shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
fume shall rise with eve - ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on His name.
ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud "A - men!"

from Edinburgh was never-to-be-forgotten. His friends escorted him in a festooned carriage from Scottish Congregational Church to Waverley Station where multitudes had gathered. Before boarding the train Eric spoke to the crowds, saying he was going abroad to endeavor to do his part in trying to unify the counties of the world under Christ. "Let our motto be 'Christ for the World, for the World Needs Christ,'" he shouted. He then led in two verses of "Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun."*

If, on that memorable day Eric had sung all the verses of "Jesus Shall Reign," he would have come to this one:

*The saints shall flourish in his days,
Dresses in the robes of joy and praise;
Peace, like a river, from His throne
Shall flow to nations yet unknown.*

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

*Eric Liddell served courageously until his death in 1945 in a Japanese internment camp.

Jesus Shall Reign 1719

While living on the Abney estate, Isaac Watts devoted himself to a massive project, adapting the Book of Psalms for Christian worship. In 1719, *The psalms of David Imitated in the Language of the New Testament* was published. In it, Watts worked his way through most of the 150 Psalms, paraphrasing them, injecting them with New Testament truth, and framing them in the singing form.

He explained his approach with these words: "Where the Psalmist describes religion by the fear of God, I have often joined faith and love to it. Where he speaks of the pardon of sin through the mercies of God, I have added the merits of a Savior. Where he talks of sacrificing goats or bullocks, I rather choose to mention the sacrifice of Christ, the Lamb of God. Where He promises abundance of wealth, honor, and long life, I have changed some of these typical blessings for grace, glory, and life eternal, which are brought to light by the gospel, and promised in the New Testament."

Several of these have become favorites that have withstood the ages, His rendition of Psalm 72, for example, has been called the first missions hymn: "Jesus Shall Reign Where'er The Sun."

This hymn played a role in the life of Eric Liddell, Scottish Olympic hero of the 1924 games in Paris, who became a missionary to China with the London Missionary Society. His departure

Chefs Corner



One-Pot Chicken Parmesan Pasta

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Tbsp. olive oil | 1 lb. chicken cut into pieces |
| 1 tsp. garlic powder | 1 tsp. Italian seasoning |
| ½ tsp. salt | ¼ tsp. black pepper |
| 1 cup onion, diced | 3 cloves garlic, minced |
| 1 (24oz.) jar marinara sauce | 2 cups chicken broth |
| 12 ounces pasta | 1 cup mozzarella cheese |
| ½ cup grated Parmesan cheese | |

In a small bowl, mix the garlic powder, Italian seasoning, salt, and black pepper. Sprinkle the seasoning evenly over the chicken pieces and toss to coat. Heat the olive oil in a large, deep skillet or Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Add the seasoned chicken and cook for 5–6 minutes, stirring occasionally, until golden brown and cooked through. Remove the chicken from the pot and set aside. In the same pot, add the onion and sauté for 3–4 minutes, until softened. Stir in the garlic and cook for 1 more minute, until fragrant. Pour in the marinara sauce and chicken broth, stirring to combine. Add the uncooked pasta to the pot, pressing it down gently to ensure it's submerged in the liquid. Bring the mixture to a boil, then reduce heat to medium-low. Cover pot and let it simmer for 10–12 minutes, stirring occasionally, until the pasta is tender and most of the liquid has been absorbed. Stir the cooked chicken back into the pot. Sprinkle the shredded mozzarella and grated Parmesan cheese over the top. Cover the pot for 2–3 minutes, allowing the cheese to melt and create a creamy, cheesy layer. Serve hot directly from the pot.

Triple Reese's Peanut Butter Cookies

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1 cup unsalted butter, softened | 1 cup creamy peanut butter |
| 1 cup granulated sugar | 1 cup packed brown sugar |
| 2 large eggs | 2 tsp. pure vanilla extract |
| 1 ¾ cups all-purpose flour | 1 tsp. baking soda |
| ½ tsp salt | 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips |
| 1 cup chopped peanut butter cups | ½ cup chopped peanuts (optional) |
| Extra Reese's peanut butter cup halves (to press into the tops before baking) | |

Preheat your oven to 350*. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper or silicone baking mats. In a large mixing bowl, using a mixer cream together butter, peanut butter, granulated sugar, and brown sugar until light and fluffy (about 2-3 minutes). Beat in the eggs one at a time, then the vanilla. Mix until fully combined. In a separate bowl, whisk together the flour, baking soda, and salt. Gradually add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients, mix on low speed until just combined. Be careful not to overmix. Gently fold in the chocolate chips, chopped peanut butter cups, and peanuts with a spatula. Use a cookie scoop or tablespoon to drop rounded portions of dough onto the prepared baking sheets, about 2 inches apart. Press a peanut butter cup half into the top of each cookie, if desired. Sprinkle lightly with flaky sea salt for an extra touch of flavor. Bake for 10-12 minutes, or until the edges are golden brown but the centers still look slightly soft. The cookies will continue to set as they cool. Remove from the oven and let the cookies cool on the baking sheet for 5 minutes before transferring them to a wire rack to cool completely.

PLANTING YOUR SPRING GARDEN

For the garden of your daily living

Plant three rows of peas

1. Peace of Mind
2. Peace of Heart
3. Peace of Soul

Plant four rows of Squash

1. Squash Gossip
2. Squash Indifference
3. Squash Grumbling
4. Squash Selfishness

Plant four rows of Lettuce

1. Lettuce be Faithful
2. Lettuce be Kind
3. Lettuce be patient
4. Lettuce Really Love One Another

No Garden is complete without Turnips

1. Turnip for meetings
2. Turnip for Service
3. Turnip to Help One Another

To Conclude Our Garden, We must Have Thyme

1. Thyme for Each Other
2. Thyme for Family
3. Thyme for Friends

Water freely with Patience and cultivate with Love. There is much Fruit in your Garden because you Reap what You Sow. Pass it On!!!!



April 1- Brock Welker

April 5- Aspen Keys

April 16- Taryn Troutman

April 20- Fern Bucher

April 25- John Novinger

April 1- Deb Trautman

April 5- Lori Gahagan

April 17- Sierra Shomper

April 20- Randy Bellon Jr.

April 26- Cheyanne Matter

April 4- Memphis Matter

April 9- Leah Schade

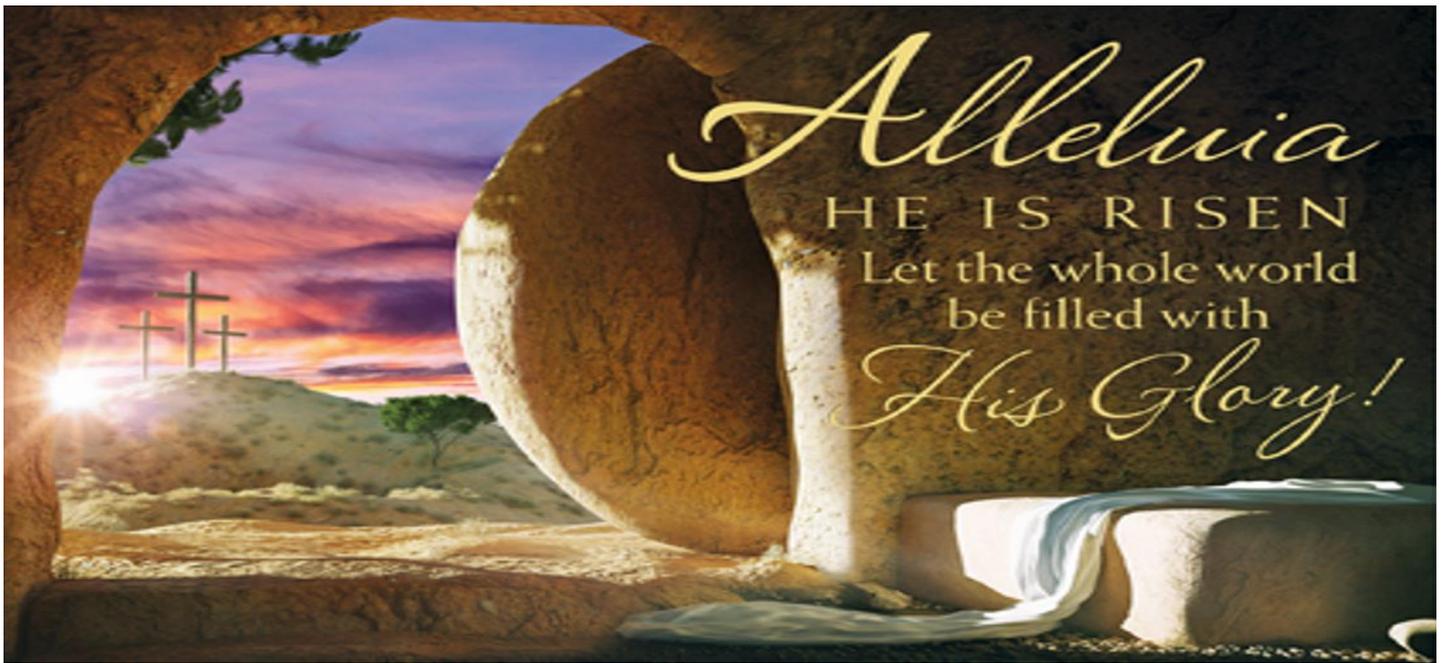
April 19- Darlene Novinger

April 22- Crystal Keys

HE HAS RISEN! OUR LORD HAS RISEN! HAPPY EASTER!!

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

HOLY THURSDAY	ASH WEDNESDAY	PSALM SUNDAY	HAPPY EASTER	RESURRECTION
GOOD FRIDAY	CRUCIFIXION	JELLY BEANS	HOLY SPIRIT	SALVATION
SACRIFICE	DISCIPLES	GARDENER	PASSION	MIRACLE
BELIEVE	HOLIDAY	FLOWERS	RITUAL	CHURCH
SPRING	RABBIT	CARROT	BASKET	FATHER
EASTER	ANGELS	RISEN	FAITH	GRASS
CANDY	BUNNY	MARCH	PETER	JESUS
CROSS	ALIVE	LENT	LAMB	HIDE
TOMB	MARY	JOHN	HAM	GOD



SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH

Cameron Smeltz and Jason Dively were in the UDA High School production of *Annastasia* on March 14 & 15. Giulia Bettaglio, the exchange student that Becky and Brian Hoover are hosting was stage crew. They all did a great job. I'm sure it took some time to get all those Russian Names pronounced correctly and learn those Russian dances.

