<u>The Simeon Spirit</u>

SIMEON UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH

173 North Center Street, Gratz, PA

July/August 2025

Diamonds at Our Feet

There is an old story told about a man by the name of Ali Facid. He had a small farm and a family. One day, the story goes, a Buddhist priest came by and said to Ali Facid: "You know, there are valuable stones called diamonds, and if you get one of these you could be a wealthy man." Ali Facid went to bed that night, but the words of the old priest haunted him. He was so obsessed that he felt that he must find him one of these diamonds so that he could become a ruler.

He sold his farm, put his family out to neighbors and went out to find his acres of diamonds. Months passed. He was broken in body and spirit. His funds were gone. And at the Bay of Barcelona, he threw himself into the water, never to walk this earth again.

Meanwhile, the man who bought his farm bent over one day and picked up a little stone. He was intrigued by how the light sparkled and seemed to dazzle and simmer in all directions. He laid it on the mantle that night not knowing what it was.

A few days later the old Buddhist priest came by to visit and saw it and exclaimed: "Ali Facid must be back from his search."

"No, came the response."

"Then where did that diamond come from?"

The farmer replied: "I was out plowing in the garden and found it there."

And the irony is that from that very garden, <u>for this is not a legend but a true story</u>, came all the jewels and diamonds that today adorn the crown heads of Europe and Russia. In Ali Facid's own backyard there were acres of diamonds, and he knew it not.

So often it is that at our very feet are precious stones among the rocks. What could be more precious than the heartbeat of a living person. A person who struggles daily in a world without God, confused by the meaningless of life, loneliness which could be healed in the fellowship of believers, always living in the shadow of the fear of death.

We talk a lot about sharing the good news about Jesus Christ. We are invited to invite someone, anyone, everyone to our house of worship where the story is told. It is a powerful

yet non-evasive way of introducing someone to the faith we hold so dear.

Yet do we? How many Christians will live their whole lives and never share Christ with a single other person? Someone is waiting to hear the story. He or She might be as close as a diamond at your feet. Love them by telling them about Jesus.

Faithfully Yours in Christ,

Pastor Greg

<u>CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FROM</u> JUNE 2025 <u>Special Meeting June 8, 2025, After worship</u>

John called the meeting to discuss the repairing of the rain spouting that was blown down in a storm about 2 months ago. Matt & Dave Ferster were going to replace it, but upon further investigation they decided it should be done by someone else. John called 2 companies for estimates, and we only got one. The estimate to replace it is \$740.00. Discussion was had. The property committee is making a motion to replace the rain spouting at a cost of \$740.00, seconded by Darlene Novinger. Approved.

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES JUNE 19, 2025

OLD BUSINESS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. <u>Worship and Music</u>- This Sunday June 22, Healing Service – next Sunday June 29, St. Peter & St. Paul, Apostles Festival Sunday with Holy communion. Will be celebrating Christmas in July again this year by collecting toys and monetary donations for the Human Services Center in Lykens.

2.<u>Parish Education</u>- Bible School is going well, has about 29 kids. Will be doing a presentation on Friday the 20th at 11 a.m. at the park with a little picnic after. Miss Jean is there with them with her "Miss Jean car" that was downstairs from a skit she did.

3. Stewardship and Evangelism - None

4. <u>Social Ministry</u> – Had 17 people for June. Gave a family information on a foodbank closer to their home and some food.

5. <u>Youth</u> – Need to plan a meeting when everyone can meet now since school is out.

6.<u>Church Property</u> – Rain Spouting has been repaired at a cost of \$740.00. John called and asked them to add an elbow to the pipe at the bottom to send the water out along the roof instead of straight into the bottom spouting to prevent overflow and a mess. Still looking for someone to paint around the windows and sills. Discussion had on looking into getting air conditioning in the sanctuary, Carl is going to get more information. Carl talked to his brother who is a contractor about the plaster issue we have. Discussion was had and decided to have him get an estimate to fix it.

7.<u>Budget and Finance</u> - Church Mutual Insurance still has the workman's comp. insurance, but they canceled our other coverage even though we did what they asked for. So, our regular insurance is now with Diebler, Straub, and Troutman in Elizabethville. Tracy showed the plaque with the Organ fund donor names on it and passed it around for everyone to see. Need to find where in the narthex we will hang it. Tracy made a motion to get a plaque to put outside the Sunday school room that was Jean's that say's "Miss Jean's Room" seconded by Carl Slough. Approved. Going to talk to Chad Philips about making it.

8. **Fellowship** – Our next event will be the Church picnic on August 24th after church, at the Gratz Park. Paper goods and drinks will be provided. Please bring a covered dish to share. Volunteers are needed to help Brenda Flynn with games, so if you can help, please talk to her. Has a proposal to replace the three stoved (grouped together) on the one side of the kitchen that are no longer working properly with two glass top stoves. Going to use money in the "Tea Party" account to pay for them. Price from Mayer & Kahler for them is \$769 each. Lowes has similar stoves, which are about \$100 cheaper. Discussion was had and Sharon Erdman made a motion to purchase them from Mayer & Kahler seconded by Deb Trautman. Further discussion was had; this matter is tabled till more information regarding the electrical is gotten since we are going from three stoves to two stoves to make sure we have the proper outlets for the stoves, since two of them are apartment stoves which are smaller. All approved of tabling this matter. The kitchen area needs a massive cleaning and would like two members of council there when its scheduled to make decisions on what can be discarded, donated, recycled, etc. Council would like a list of things that need to be decided on what to do with.

9.<u>Mutual Ministry</u> – Would like Pastor Greg to start a card ministry for the shut-ins and others with a personal note and possibly a picture of the church. Pastor Greg Says he no longer feels comfortable driving to Harrisburg and other places that are far away. We would like to get him a list of people that would or could drive him to such places when needed.

<u>New Business</u> – September Meeting changed to September 25 at 7 p.m., since regular meeting falls fair week.

The Pastor's Time – Synod Assembly theme this year was World Hunger. The Synod has made it mandatory that all ministers must go to LGBTQ training every 3 years. A new bishop has been elected. The Rev. Stephen R. Herr was called to a six-year term as bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod. He currently serves as pastor of Christ Lutheran Church in Gettysburg. Pastor Greg want's to thank Will Roger for going with him and driving to the Synod assembly in York. Got the information for the school kits this year and we are responsible for pens. They will be purchased in bulk and put together in bundles of 5 for the kits to be packed in September.





<u>Members</u> – Doris Flynn, Ronald Scheib, Earl Spradling, Anna Coleman, Craig Schwartz, Rosalie Fetterolf, Julie Ferster, Janet Rumfelt, Marie Lahr, Clair & Vivian Engle

Northern Dauphin Nursing & Rehab. - Kenneth Mace

Polk Apartments- Martha Koppenhaver, Charles Schoffstall

<u>Friends & Family</u> – LouAnn Hoffman, Barbara Shuey, Shirley Bixler, Dean Harner, Sherry Johns, Linda Sitlinger, Randy Rebuck, Kathie Dresel, Dorothy Lettich Martin, Steve Dagen, Jim Troutman



<u>Seafood Stuffed Shells</u> ¹/₂ lb. lump crab meat 1 cup ricotta cheese ¹/₄ cup grated Parmesan 12 jumbo pasta shells, cooked

2 cloves garlic, minced 1 cup mozzarella Salt, pepper, to taste 2 Tbsp. Parsley

Preheat oven to 375*. Mix crab, ricotta, garlic, salt, pepper, and parsley. Stuff cooked shells with the mixture. Place in a baking dish, top with mozzarella and Parmesan. Bake 20–25 mins until bubbly and golden.

Sausage, Egg, and Cream Cheese Hashbrown Casserole

1 lb. sausage
 8 oz cream cheese, softened
 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
 Salt and pepper to taste

6 large eggs 3 cups frozen hashbrowns (thawed slightly) ½ cup milk

Preheat oven to 375*. Lightly grease a 9x13-inch baking dish. Cook sausage in a skillet over medium heat until browned and fully cooked. Drain excess fat. In a large bowl, whisk the eggs, then stir in milk, softened cream cheese, salt, and pepper. Mix until mostly smooth (some small cream cheese bits are fine). Add cooked sausage, hashbrowns, and shredded cheese to the egg mixture. Stir until well combined. Pour mixture into the prepared baking dish. Smooth out the top. Bake uncovered for 35–40 minutes, or until set and golden brown on top. If desired, sprinkle more cheese on top and bake for 5 extra minutes. Let rest for 5–10 minutes before slicing.

Red, White & Blue Cheesecake Salad

2 cup fresh strawberries, chopped	$1\frac{1}{2}$ cups fresh blueberries
1 ¹ / ₂ cups mini marshmallows	1 (8 oz) whipped topping
1 box (3.4 oz) cheesecake instant pudding mix	2 cups vanilla yogurt

In a large bowl, whisk together the cheesecake pudding mix and yogurt until smooth and fully blended. Gently fold in the whipped topping until combined and fluffy. Add in the mini marshmallows, chopped strawberries, and blueberries. Stir carefully to avoid breaking the berries. Cover and refrigerate for at least 1 hour before serving to allow the flavors to meld. Serve chilled and garnish with extra berries and marshmallows if desired.

Strawberry Banana Pudding Dessert

1 (3.4 oz) box vanilla instant pudding	2 cups cold milk
1 (8 oz) whipped topping	1 box Nilla wafers
2 bananas, sliced	1 cup strawberry pie filling

Whisk pudding mix with milk until thickened. Fold in whipped topping. Layer Nilla wafers, banana slices, pudding mixture, and strawberry filling in a dish. Repeat layers and top with extra wafers. Chill for at least 2 hours before serving.







died in 1917.

<u>1864</u> Folliot Sandforrd Peirpoint---that's the

unlikely name of the author of this great hymn. Folliot was born, October 7, 1835, in Bath, England. After graduating from Cambridge, he taught at Somersetshire Collage in his home area of Bath.

For the Beauty of the Earth

One day when he was 29, Folliot found himself walking in the countryside on a beautiful Spring day. He saw the ocean of green, the blue dome of heaven, and the winding Avon River cutting through the flowery landscape. Overwhelmed with God's creative brilliance, he wrote this poem. He intended it primarily for Communion services in the Anglican Church, but when it jumped the Atlantic, it became associated with quickly the American Thanksgiving holiday.

In Folliot's original version, each verse ended with: "Christ, Our God, to Thee we raise / This our sacrifice of praise," That line was eventually changed to, "Lord of all, to Thee we raise / This our hymn of grateful praise."

Little else is known about Folliot Sandford Pierpoint. He resigned from his position at Somersetshire, and apparently moved from place to place, teaching some, writing hymns, and publishing his poetry. He

"For the Beauty of the Earth" is one of only a few songs devoted purely to giving thanks. One of the strange things about the "attitude of gratitude" is that we tend to exhibit it in reverse proportion to the number of blessings received. The more we have, the less thankful we are.

Among the lessons Viktor Frankl learned in the Nazi death-camp, Auschwitz, was to take time to be thankful and to count your blessings. He wrote that prisoners in the camp dreamed at night about certain things more than others. Bread, cakes, and nice warm baths---the very things we take for granted every day.

Ralph Waldo Emerson observed that if the constellations appeared only in a thousand years, imagine what an exciting event it would be. But because they're there every night, we barely give them a look.

One of the evidenced of the Holy Spirit's work in our lives is a gradual reversal of that twisted pattern. God wants to make us people who exhibit a thankfulness in proper proportion to the gifts and blessings we've received.

Why not take time to sing this hymn to the Lord right now?

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

SERVING IN JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER

JULY 6, 2025 4 th Sunday After Pentecost w/ Holy Communion JULY 13, 2025 5 th Sunday After Pentecost JULY 20, 2025 6 th Sunday After Pentecost	<u>Greeter</u> : Brooklynne Dively <u>Reader</u> : Dennis Barge <u>Usher</u> : Mike Hartman <u>Glasses</u> : Linda Koppenhaver <u>Greeter</u> : Matthew Ferster <u>Reader</u> : Mike Hartman <u>Greeter</u> : John Novinger <u>Reader</u> : Virginia Moore	<u>Altar</u> : Lynn Schadle
<u>JULY 27, 2025</u> 7 th Sunday After <u>Pentecost</u>	<u>Greeter</u> : Virginia Moore <u>Reader</u> : John Novinger	
<u>AUGUST 3, 2025</u> 8 th Sunday After Pentecost w/ Holy Communion	<u>Greeter</u> : Sandra Matter <u>Reader</u> : Tracy Bixler <u>Usher:</u> Matthew Ferster Glasses: Susan Krause	<u>Altar</u> : Sharon Erdman
<u>AUGUST 10, 2025</u> 9 th Sunday After Pentecost	<u>Greeter</u> : Lisa Perkins <u>Reader</u> : Nathan Steinbach	173 NORTH CENTER STREET PO BOX 478 GRATZ, PA 17030
<u>AUGUST 17, 2025</u> 10 th Sunday After Pentecost	<u>Greeter</u> : Susan Krause <u>Reader</u> : Keith Klinger	<u>Rev. Gregory B. Lindsey, Pastor</u> Church Phone: (717)365-3139 Pastor Cell: (717)521-9402 Secretary Email: sulc.angel80@gmail.com
<u>AUGUST 24, 2025</u> 11 th Sunday After Pentecost	<u>Greeter</u> : Anna Coleman <u>Reader</u> : Lynn Schadle	Church Website: <u>www.simeonchurch.org</u> YouTube channel: Simeon Church, Gratz PA ELCA Website: www.elca.org
<u>AUGUST 31, 2025</u> 12 th Sunday After <u>Pentecost</u>	<u>Greeter</u> : Darlene Novinger <u>Reader</u> : Sharon Erdman	Lower Susquehanna Synod:www.lss-elca.org
<u>September 7, 2025</u> 13 th Sunday After Pentecost w/ Holy Communion	<u>Greeter</u> : Brooklynne Dively <u>Reader</u> : Jason Dively <u>Usher:</u> Dave Strohecker <u>Glasses</u> : Virginia Moore	<u>Altar</u> : Susan Krause
<u>September 14, 2025</u> Holy Cross Day w/ Holy Communion	<u>Greeter</u> : Dave Strohecker <u>Reader</u> : Barbara Klinger <u>Usher:</u> Lynn Schadle <u>Glasses</u> : Brenda Flynn	<u>Altar</u> : Keith Klinger
<u>September 21, 2025</u> 15 th Sunday After Pentecost	<u>Greeter</u> : Lynn Schadle <u>Reader</u> : Mike Hartman	
<u>September 28, 2025</u> 16 th Sunday After Pentecost	<u>Greeter</u> : Dennis Barge <u>Reader</u> : John Novinger	

UPCOMING EVENTS:



Friday, July 4 – INDEPENDENCE DAY

Sunday, July 6 - Worship Service w/Holy Communion10:15 a.m. /Food Collection Saturday, July 12 - Food Bank Open, 9-11 a.m. Sunday, July 13 - Worship Service 10:15 a.m. Sunday, July 20 - Worship Service 10:15 a.m. Sunday, July 27 - Worship Service 10:15 a.m.



Sunday, August 3 - Worship Service w/Holy Communion10:15 a.m. /Food Collection
Saturday, August 9 - Food Bank Open, 9-11 a.m.
Sunday, August 10 - Worship Service 10:15 a.m.
Sunday, August 17 - Worship Service 10:15 a.m.
Thursday, August 21 - Council Meeting 7 p.m.
Friday, August 22 - Deadline For September Newsletter!!!!!!

Sunday, August 24 - Worship Service 10:15 a.m. /Church Picnic at Gratz park after service Sunday, August 31 - Worship Service 10:15 a.m.



<u>Monday, September 1 – Labor Day</u> Sunday, September 7- Worship Service w/Holy Comm. 10:15 a.m. /Food Collect /Rally Day <u>Thursday, September 11 – Patriot Day</u> Saturday, September 13 - Food Bank Open, 9-11 a.m.

Sunday, September 14 - Worship Service10:15 a.m.

GRATZ FAIR WEEK SEPT. 14-20

Friday, September 19 - Newsletter Deadline
Sunday, September 21 - Worship Service 10:15 a.m.
Monday, September 22 - 1st Day of Autumn
Thursday, September 25 - Council Meeting 7 p.m.
Sunday, September 28 - Worship Service 10:15 a.m.

We will again celebrate Christmas in July by collecting toys and monetary gifts to donate to the Upper Dauphin Human Services in Lykens. So,



when you're out doing your shopping and see that toy on sale or clearance pick it up and bring it to church to donate it to a worthy cause & help keep the <u>CHRIST in</u> <u>CHRISTMAS</u> & make a child's Christmas better!!!!

Chefs Corner

One-Pot Smoked Sausage Pasta 1 cup onion, chopped 2 cup chicken broth 2 cups of pasta 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese Salt & black pepper to taste

3 cloves garlic, minced 1 cup heavy cream 2 cups smoked sausage ½ cup Parmesan cheese Fresh parsley, (garnish)

In a large pot, sauté the onion and garlic in a bit of oil until soft and fragrant. Add the smoked sausage slices and cook until lightly

browned. Pour in the chicken broth, heavy cream, and uncooked pasta. Stir to combine. Cover and cook on medium heat for 12–15 minutes, or until pasta is tender. Remove the lid, stir in the cheeses, and season with salt and pepper. Garnish with parsley and serve hot!

Tropical Pineapple Dream Salad

1 (3.4oz.) box instant vanilla pudding

1 (8 oz.) whipped topping, thawed

1 (20oz.) crushed pineapple with juice (not drained) 2 cups mini marshmallows

In a large mixing bowl, combine the instant pudding mix with the entire can of crushed pineapple (including juice). Stir until the mixture thickens slightly—about 1–2 minutes. Gently fold in the thawed whipped topping until fully blended and creamy. Stir in the mini marshmallows and mix until evenly distributed. Cover the bowl and refrigerate the dessert for at least 2 hours (or overnight) to allow the flavors to blend and the texture to set.

Cucumber Ranch Crack Salad

2–3 cups sliced cucumbers
½ cup shredded cheddar cheese
2 tablespoons chopped green onions
Salt & black pepper to taste

In a large mixing bowl, combine the sliced cucumbers, ranch dressing, shredded cheddar, bacon, green onions, and dill. Gently toss until all ingredients are evenly coated with dressing. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Cover and chill for 15–30 minutes before serving for best flavor. Stir again just before serving.

Homemade Frito Chili Cheese Wrap

1 lb. ground beef	1 can chili
1 cup shredded cheddar cheese	1 cup Fritos corn chips
4 large flour tortillas	

In a skillet, brown the ground beef over medium heat. Drain excess fat. Add the canned chili to the skillet with the cooked beef and heat through. Lay out a flour tortilla and sprinkle a quarter of the shredded cheddar cheese in the center. Spoon a portion of the chili mixture over the cheese. Top with a handful of Fritos corn chips. Fold in the sides of the tortilla and roll it up like a burrito. Repeat with the remaining tortillas and fillings. Place the wraps on a baking sheet and bake in a preheated oven at 350* for 10 minutes or until the cheese is melted and bubbly. Serve hot and enjoy the crunchy, cheesy goodness!



texture to set.

¹/₂ cup ranch dressing ¹/₄ cup cooked and crumbled bacon

¹/₂ teaspoon dried dill (optional)





O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee 1879

Washington Gladden (so named because his great-grandfather served as Goerge Washington's bodyguard during the Revolutionary War) was a Congregational pastor. He served in New York, Massachusetts, and Ohio during the post-Civil War industrial era when racial and economic injustice was rampant. People everywhere were searching for a new American ethic.

Washington wanted to give them one, and he is remembered today as the father of the Social Gospel in America, an activist who crusaded tirelessly for political and moral reform in industry, commerce, and politics. He was a champion of the "working man," a strong supporter of union rights, and he was unafraid to attack corruption in politics.

Unfortunately, Washington advanced the liberal-leaning bible criticism that undercut conservative theology at the turn of the century. He was more concerned with applied Christianity than with biblical Christianity. He wrote thirty-eight books on such themes. In one of them he said: "The Bible is not an infallible Book, in the sense in which it is popularly supposed to be infallible...The Book is not infallible historically...It is not infallible scientifically...It is not infallible morally...."

He embraced evolution and opposed the outreach efforts of evangelists like Billy Sunday. He infuriated his own denomination by railing against a large gift to foreign missions because it was donated by the Standard Oil Company. Not surprisingly, conservative Christians opposed Wahington's liberal theology. During a period of heavy criticism, he sat alone in his church and wrote this hymn.

Dr. Charles H. Richards later saw it in a magazine, and, while loving the poem, was troubled by the second verse:

O Master, let me walk with Thee / Before the taunting Pharisee; / Help me to bear the sting of spite, / The hate of men who hide Thy light, / The sore distrust of souls sincere / Who cannot read Thy judgments clear, / The dullness of the multitude, / Who dimly guess that Thou art good.

After discarding that verse, Richards selected music for the remaining stanzas and included them in his book, "*Christian Praise*.

Ironically, Christians of all stripes have embraced this as a prayer of their own while laboring for the Master in a world desperately needing the transformation of Christ.

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



WORD LIST AMERICA BALLOONS BBQ CELEBRATE FIRECRACKER FIREWORKS FLAGS FREEDOM FUN INDEPENDENCE JULY LIBERTY NATION PARADE PARTY PATRIOTIC PICNIC RED SPARKLERS STARS STRIPES SUMMER USA WHITE YARD

L S T A R S X Q G O B Z S ZNOZYARD R Μ DG р ΤR Ι Т I C HRP A 0 Ν A S S Т R Ι Ρ Ε RUC J Y R LZD Τ YCA F Τ Η K Y A S IQCD Ν Ζ ΖC С F В L VVZRC T F RG L Е D Ο J Ι Ε В F Υ E I R R T Ε Ο APUOD Е TAE в Ν S R LKLAE ΜΕ Τ Х T D D Ο ACHCWDOLNYRP S RWSEOUMO F ΤU Е Α AMN TLB S O С Ο YA O YYEGAD Ν Ν C FΟ E F TNOBAZA Κ E B T S Τ. TRRTBRWC E D 0 Η G RMAAEQBHAHO Ν Е J SNPMWQP J Е ТО D XPMUO Y S Η R E р Ι Α VCKURI RUWL R E V DWKNHSKVXKB Ζ А HRYFMOC ZG S I Р Ν Y OVUF LAGSLS L I

4TH OF JULY

WORD SEARCH

<u>"VOICE OF SIMEON" RADIO MINISTRY SPONSORS</u> July 2025

July 6 – Buffington/Reed Funeral Home

July 13 – Willing Workers

July 20 – Bellevue Bees

July 27 – The Fester Family

<u>August 2025</u>

August 3 – Buffington/Reed Funeral Home

August 10 – Willing Workers

August 17 – James A. Reed Funeral Home

August 24 – Hoffman Hatchery

August 31 – Boardwalk Ice Cream Gratz

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.

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. *If you are able to help*, *please see Lisa Perkins or Brenda Flynn*.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE FOOD BANK are pasta, ketchup, canned pasta meals, and canned tuna. Thanks for your continued support.

DAILY DEVOTIONALS

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

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 <u>sulc.angel80@gmail.com</u>. 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.



July 4- Minerva Negley July 22- Amara Barge July 29- Edna Ferster

August 1- Gerald Wolfgang August 3- Kerry Matter August 10- Brenda Flynn August 17- Denise Spradling August 22- Breanna Davis August 30- Karen Romberger August 31- Remington Schlegel

July 6- Susan Krause July 25- John Hoffman July 30- Hilda Peters

August 2- Debra Hurley August 5- Dennis Krause August 10- Brooks Matter August 18- Dennis Barge August 25- John Sracic August 31- Doris Flynn July 17- Andrew Romberger July 27- Jenny Sracic

August 2- Earl Spradling August 6- Blake Davis August 16- Vivian Engle August 18- Ruth Sitlinger August 27- Linda Koppenhaver August 31- Ginny Reed



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMMING EVENTS

<u>Annual church picnic</u> will be held on Sunday, August 24th, at the Gratz Borough Park. Paper goods and drinks will be provided. Please bring a covered dish to share. We're planning some fun games and hope you will come and share in the fellowship. We need help planning some of the games so please see Brenda Flynn if you can help.

Breakfast for lunch Fellowship will be held on Sunday, September 7th, immediately after church. This has proven to be a very popular event with a lot of dishes to choose from.

<u>September Community project</u> - We'll be collecting unscented/lightly scented body wash, bar soap and paper goods to be donated to the Upper Dauphin Human Services Center. So, grab a few extra items when you're out and about and bring them to church during the month of September. There will be a box in the narthex to collect the items.

<u>Community Outreach - Talent Show/ Spaghetti Dinner – Saturday, October 11th</u>

This is a free event (donation only) for the community. Due to limited seating <u>RESERVATIONS</u> are required. Stay tuned for more details. I know several people working on their acts, and you <u>**DON'T**</u> want to miss this evening of fellowship, delicious food, and tons of laughs. It's guaranteed to be another fun-filled evening. Keeping the Simeon Spirit alive!

More events are in the planning stages. Details will be provided at a future date. If you have any ideas on events we can plan or wish to join the Fellowship Committee, please let Sandra Matter or Susan Krause know. Some of these events require a lot of work and we can use the help.



<u>The Rev. Stephen R. Herr Called as Bishop of the</u> <u>Lower Susquehanna Synod</u>

On June 7, 2025, the Rev. Stephen Robert Herr was called to serve a six-year term as bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Rev. Herr currently serves as pastor of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Ordained on July 2, 1994, Pastor Herr has served in parish, campus, and synodical leadership for more than three decades.

His service includes roles on the ELCA Church Council, Executive Committee, and multiple synod councils, as well as leadership in outdoor ministry, ecumenical engagement, the arts,

and historical preservation in the Gettysburg area.

Please join us in giving thanks for Bishop-elect Herr and holding him in prayer as he prepares to lead our synod into the future.

CONFIRMATION, 2025

Breanna Davis affirmed her faith on Sunday June 8th, 2025



Pastor Greg and Breanna



Brandon, Breanna, & Paula Davis

Independence Day

PRAYEF

Dear God our Father,

we praise You today for who You are—a God of love, who reveals to us that love is truth and freedom. Thank You for our country, the United States of America, conceived in liberty, and for all those who have sacrificed that we might enjoy these freedoms.

Like a city on a mountaintop, help us to share our blessings with the world, and to allow the light of Your Holy Spirit within us to set others free in spirit, soul, and body. In Jesus' name. Amen.



Have a Blessed Holiday



BIBLE SCHOOL, 2025

Monday – Abraham & Sarah follow God Tuesday – Israelites take the scenic route Wednesday – Mary & Elizabeth's family reunion Thursday – Jesus visits Zacchaeus Friday – On the road with Paul





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JEAN







