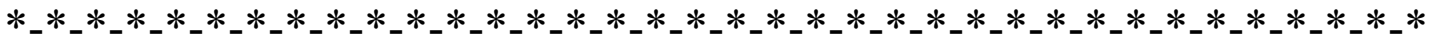


The Simeon Spirit
SIMEON UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH

P.O. BOX 478

173 North Center Street, Gratz, PA



Pastor's Message

Ever since I was a child, I have always loved the Fall season. The changing colors of leaves, fields ready for the harvest, cooler days, the fall flowers with their bright yellows, oranges, and deep reds, pumpkins, apples, and Halloween. I think it is fortunate that we live in such a temperate climate as Pennsylvania. While we may complain about excessively hot summers and cold winters, having the distinctive change in the four seasons is worth it.

Back in the days of old, the ancient Israelites did not have access to calendars or clocks to keep track of time. Rather they measured time by the cycles of the moon, the changing constellations in the sky, the advent of rainy season, the times of each type of harvest. In a way, time was an internal clock that was part of them.

Genesis 14 reads, “And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." The wise teacher of Ecclesiastes reflects,

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;”

The people of biblical times like our own ancestors, found order in the changing seasons and sought to live in harmony with this order. Just as importantly, they found order in the life changes which all humans experience from birth to death. They found no need to try and control time and the natural order. They were at peace with the order God had establish from creation.

In our modern society, we think we can overrule the natural order and make it fit our purposes. We turn on the lights so we can work and play 24 hours a day. People go to extreme lengths to hide the natural aging of our bodies even if it means surgery. Death is no longer a natural part of life, but a terrible inconvenience we are determined to cheat. While there have been some changes, modern medicine still considers death a failure and strives to prolong life even at the cost of a painful and limited quality of life.

Are we any better for all these advancements? Has the 60-hour work week really made for better lifestyles or just more tired and stressed-out people? Medical science has brought many blessings to the world. Yet we also find ourselves in bondage to doctors, pills, and procedures which come with their own harm and suffering.



Jesus in his counsel against our predilection to worry says, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?" The key word here is life. In our preoccupation with time, schedules, and external things, we have lost the wonder of life itself. Perhaps it is time that we spend more time living and less time making a living.

Observe the beauty of the Fall colors and bountiful harvests. These are the ways God is continuously at work blessing us. And while the winter months to come seem to bring death upon the land, we know this is an illusion. For in the warmth of the sun and the spring rains in the months to come, life always returns. This is God's natural order. We can do nothing to make it happen. So don't let another day pass you by and miss out on this wonder. God made it for us. For in the years ahead, you may only have regrets that so many days and years have passed you by, but you never really lived but a few of them.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Greg

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FROM, SEPTEMBER, 2025

Council meeting was held after press. Will be in next month's newsletter.

2025 GIVING

\$91,332.81

2025 EXPENSES

\$106,916.14

Difference between YTD Giving & YTD Expenses \$-15,583.33
{For General Operating Fund}



Members – Rosalie Fetterolf, Merle Paul, Minerva (Minnie) Neagley, Doris Flynn, Ronald Scheib, Anna Coleman, Craig Schwartz, Julie Ferster, Janet Rumfelt, Clair & Vivian Engle

Northern Dauphin Nursing & Rehab. - Kenneth Mace

Polk Apartments- Martha Koppenhaver, Charles Schoffstall

Friends & Family – Audra (Laudenslager) Eyster, Dorothy (Lettich) Martin, Barbara Shuey, Shirley Bixler, Dean Harner, Linda Sitlinger, Randy Rebusch, Steve Dagen, Jim Troutman

HARVEST SUNDAY



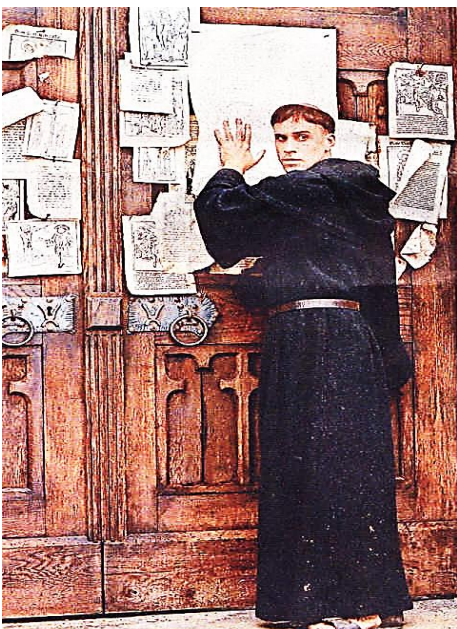
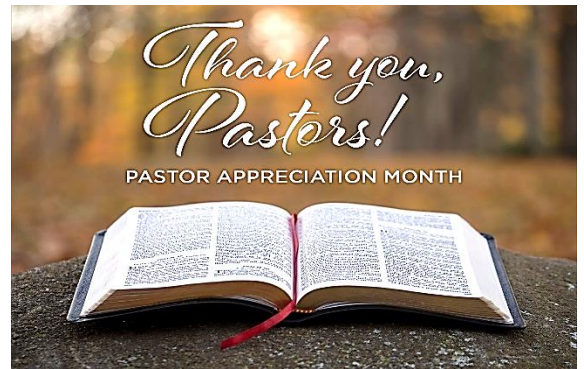
We will be celebrating Harvest Sunday on Sunday, October 12th. We thank God for his bountiful goodness by bringing canned goods and other items to display up front on shelves. The food items will go to the Gratz Food Bank. Thanks for your support.

PASTOR APPRECIATION SUNDAY

Sunday October 12th 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

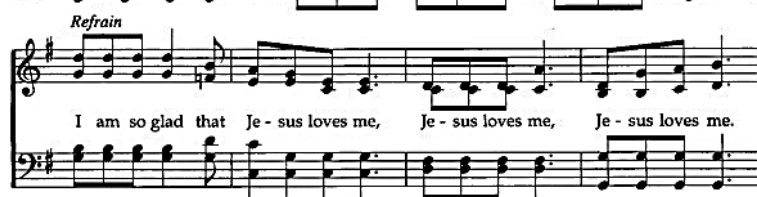
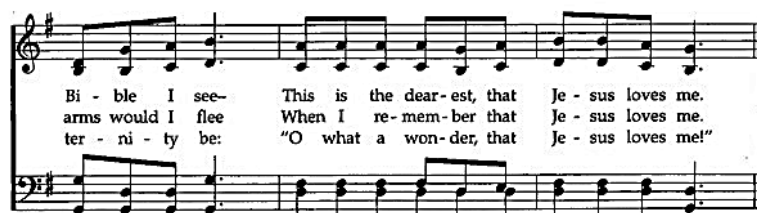
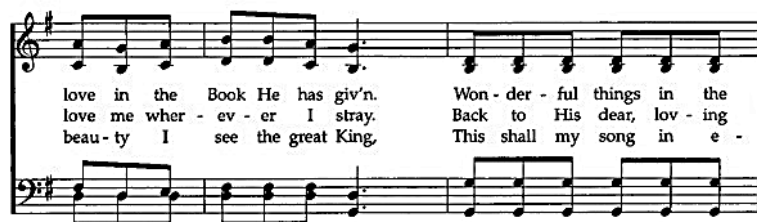
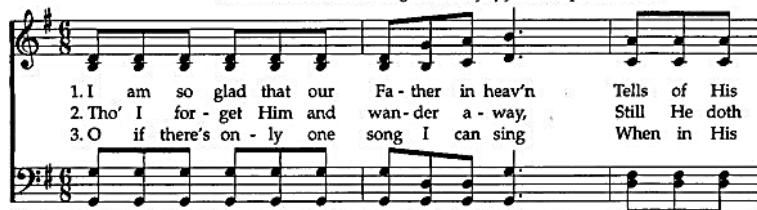
Reformation Sunday will be held on Sunday, October 26th and we remember and give thanks' for Martin Luther. Friday, October 31st, 2025--marks the 508th anniversary of the start of the Protestant Reformation, when Martin Luther posted his "95 Theses" on a church door in Germany. Because this is a Festival day, Holy Communion will be celebrated.

Music Notes



Jesus Loves Even Me

Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her. Ephesians 5:25



TEXT: Philip P. Bliss
MUSIC: Philip P. Bliss

GLADNESS
10.10.10.10. with Refrain

Jesus Loves Even Me

About 1870

Philip Bliss was born in a Pennsylvania log cabin where his father led in daily prayer and where music was the primary entertainment. As a result, the lad found himself drawn to both the Lord Jesus and to music at an early age.

When he was ten, Philip sold vegetables door to door. Approaching an elegant home, he heard a sort of music he'd never heard before. Dropping his vegetables, he scaled the fence and slipped unseen into the parlor. A woman was playing something new and strange to Philip—a piano. He was enthralled. When she stopped, he exclaimed, "O lady, please play some more!"

Spinning on her stool, the alarmed woman saw the little urchin standing there. "Get out of here with your big, bare feet!" she cried. Philip beat a fast retreat, but the sounds of that piano stayed with him and deepened his desire to become a musician.

The next year, he left home to work in the lumber camps, earning nine dollars a month as assistant cook. Later he became a log cutter and sawmill worker, but he never lost his burden for music.

In 1859, Philip Married Lucy Young and spent a year working her father's farm. Lucy encouraged his dreams, and her grandmother provided funds for classes at a nearby music school. The next year, armed with a melodeon, Philip mounted his horse, Old Fanny, and began traveling place to place, teaching music and leading singing schools. In 1864, he sold his first song to a

publishing company. Within a remarkably short time, he was one of America's foremost writers of gospel hymns. Among his songs: "Wonderful words of Life," "Almost Persuaded," "Dare to Be a Daniel," "Hallelujah, What a Savior," "The Light of the World is Jesus," and "I Will Sing of My Redeemer."

In 1870, Philip joined the staff of the First Congregational Church in Chicago. One evening, very weary, Philip found inner refreshment while meditating on Romans 5:5 "The love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit." Picking up a pen and paper, he began writing: "I am so glad that my Father in heaven / tells of His love in the book He has given...."

As he taught that song to his children the next Sunday, perhaps his mind went back to that elegant parlor where he wasn't welcome, and to the strains of music that had defined his life.

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

Serving In October & November

October 5, 2025
17th Sunday After
Pentecost w/
Holy Communion

Greeter: Deb Trautman
Reader: Dennis Barge Altar: John Novinger
Usher: Mike Hartman
Glasses: Sharon Erdman

October 12, 2025
18th Sunday After
Pentecost/ Harvest Sunday

Greeter: Barbara & Keith Klinger
Reader: Virginia Moore

October 19, 2025
19th Sunday After
Pentecost

Greeter: Matthew Ferster
Reader: Tracy Bixler

October 26, 2025
Reformation Sunday
w/ Holy
Communion

Greeter: Mike Hartman
Reader: Nathan Steinbach Altar: Dennis Barge
Usher: Matthew Ferster
Glasses: Lisa Perkins

November 2, 2025
All Saints Sunday
w/ Holy
Communion

Greeter: John Novinger
Reader: Keith Klinger Altar: Lynn Schadle
Usher: Dave Strohecker
Glasses: Linda Koppenhaver

November 9, 2025
22nd Sunday After
Pentecost

Greeter: Virginia Moore
Reader: Lynn Schadle

November 16, 2025
23rd Sunday After
Pentecost

Greeter: Susan Krause
Reader: Sharon Erdman

November 23, 2025
Christ The King
Sunday w/ Holy
Communion

Greeter: Lisa Perkins
Reader: Jason Dively Altar: Sharon Erdman
Usher: Lynn Schadle
Glasses: Tracy Bixler

November 26, 2025
Thanksgiving Eve

Greeter: Sandra Matter
Reader: Barbara Klinger

November 30, 2025
1st Sunday of
Advent

Greeter: Anna Coleman
Reader: Mike Hartman

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:



Saturday, October 4 - Talent show/Spaghetti Dinner @5p.m.

Sunday, October 5 - Worship Service w/Holy Communion /Food Collection 10:15 a.m.

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

Sunday, October 12 – Harvest Sunday Worship Service/Pastor Appreciation Sunday 10:15 a.m.

Monday, October 13 – Columbus Day

Thursday, October 16 – National Boss Day/ Council Meeting 7 p.m.

Friday, October 17 - Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, October 19 - Worship Service 10:15 a.m.

Sunday, October 26 –Reformation Sunday Worship Service w/Holy Communion 10:15 a.m.

Little Hands Nursery School Halloween Parties October 29th & 30th

Friday, October 31 Reformation Day /Happy Halloween



Saturday, November 1- All Saints Day/ Fellowship Committee making soup

**Sunday, November 2 - All Saints Sunday Service w/Holy Comm. /Food Collect/Fellowship
after church w/soup**

Tuesday, November 4 – Election Day

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

Sunday, November 9 – Music Sunday Worship Service 10:15am

Tuesday, November 11 – Veterans Day

Sunday, November 16 - Healing Worship Service 10:15am

Thursday, November 20 - Council Meeting 7 p.m.

Friday, November 21 – December Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, November 23– Christ the King Sunday Worship Service w/Holy Comm. 10:15am

Wednesday, November 26- Thanksgiving Eve Service 7p.m.

Thursday, November 27- HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!!!!!!!!

Saturday, November 29 – Decorate the Church 9:00a.m.

Sunday, November 30 – First Sunday of Advent

**Please update the P.O. Box number for
Judy Ann Smith**

It should be P.O. Box 168 not 198

Chefs Corner



Double Crunch Honey Garlic Chicken Breasts

4 lg. boneless, skinless chicken breasts
4 tsp salt
2 tsp paprika
2 tsp onion powder
4 tbsp water

Honey Garlic Sauce:

2 tbsp olive oil
1 cup honey
1 tsp black pepper

2 cups flour
4 tsp black pepper
2 tsp garlic powder
2 eggs
Oil for frying

4 garlic cloves, minced
¼ cup soy sauce

Slice each chicken breast in half lengthwise to make 8 thinner cutlets. Pound lightly to even thickness. In a bowl, mix the flour with salt, pepper, paprika, garlic powder, onion powder, and cayenne. In another bowl, whisk eggs with water. Dip chicken pieces first into the seasoned flour, then into the egg wash, then back into the flour mixture again. Place coated chicken on a tray and let rest for 5 minutes before frying. Heat oil in a deep skillet or fryer to 350*. Fry chicken pieces in batches for 6–8 minutes, turning once, until golden brown and cooked through. Drain on paper towels. Make the Honey Garlic Sauce: In a saucepan, heat olive oil over medium heat. Add garlic and sauté until fragrant (about 1 minute). Add honey, soy sauce, and black pepper. Stir and simmer for 2-3 minutes until slightly thickened. Drizzle the hot honey garlic sauce generously over the crispy chicken breasts. Garnish with chopped chives or green onions if desired.

German Potato Pancakes

6 potatoes, shredded
2 Tbsp flour
¼ teaspoon black pepper
¼ teaspoon baking powder

2 large eggs
½ teaspoon salt
½ cup onion, finely chopped
¼ cup vegetable oil, for frying

Peel and shred the potatoes using a box grater or food processor. Transfer the shredded potatoes to a clean kitchen towel and squeeze out as much moisture as possible. Place the drained potatoes in a large bowl. Add the eggs, flour, salt, pepper, chopped onion, and baking powder. Mix everything together until well combined. In a large skillet, heat the vegetable oil over medium-high heat. The oil is ready when a small amount of the mixture sizzles upon contact. Scoop about ¼ cup of the potato mixture and form it into a patty. Carefully place the patty in the hot oil and gently flatten it with a spatula. Fry each side for 3-4 minutes, or until golden brown and crispy. Transfer cooked pancakes to a paper towel-lined plate to drain excess oil. Serve Immediately. Serve with your choice of applesauce, sour cream, or savory toppings.

Peanut Butter Cup Dump Cake

1 box chocolate cake mix
2 cups milk
½ cup butter, melted
1 cup milk chocolate chips

1 (3.9 oz) box instant chocolate pudding mix
½ cup creamy peanut butter
1 cup mini peanut butter cups, chopped
Whipped cream or vanilla ice cream (for serving)

Preheat your oven to 350*. Lightly grease a 9x13-inch baking dish and set aside. In a medium bowl, whisk together the chocolate pudding mix and milk until smooth. Set aside to thicken for a few minutes. Pour the chocolate pudding evenly into the prepared baking dish. Sprinkle the dry cake mix evenly over the pudding layer. Drizzle the melted butter and peanut butter over the cake mix. Use knife to gently swirl it into the top layer without fully mixing. Scatter the chopped mini peanut butter cups and chocolate chips over the top, pressing them lightly into the batter. Bake in the preheated oven for 35-40 minutes, or until the edges are set and the center is slightly gooey. Let the cake cool for about 10 minutes before serving warm with whipped cream or a scoop of vanilla ice cream.

“VOICE OF SIMEON” RADIO MINISTRY SPONSORS

October, 2025

October 5 – Buffington/Reed Funeral Home

October 12 – Willing Workers

October 19 – The Koppenhaver Family

October 26 – 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.

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 can help, please see Lisa Perkins or Brenda Flynn.*

ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE FOOD BANK are baking items such as sugar, brown sugar, flour, oil, baking powder, baking soda, soup noodles.

DAILY DEVOTIONALS

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

THE 2025 FLOWER & BULLETIN SPONSOR CHARTS

There is still room on the charts 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.



Oct. 2- Ryan Matter

Oct. 5- Jeffrey Klinger

Oct. 7- Alex Hepler

Oct. 11- Haley Shomper

Oct. 19- Kyle Matter

Oct. 28- Brian Hoover

Oct. 3- Cameron Smeltz

Oct. 5- Diane Schadle

Oct. 7- Lori Slough

Oct. 13- Carl Slough, Jr.

Oct. 21- Nicole Wehry

Oct. 29- Keith Klinger

Oct. 5- Barbara Klinger

Oct. 7- Issac Hepler

Oct. 11- Celine Lenker

Oct. 19- Christy Barge

Oct. 23- Garry Martz

Oct. 29- Jason Dively

REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Simeon's Constitution defines active members as those who receive Holy Communion **and** make a contribution of record **at least once every two years**. If you have not yet communed in 2025, please join us for worship in the next couple months, and sign a communion card if you have not done so this year. It can't be recorded in the church register if you have not signed a card to let the secretary know you were here. Also, please use a 2025 envelope with your name and number on it so that your contribution may be recorded. Thanks for your help.



News



&

**TALENT
SHOW**

NOTE THE DATE CHANGE

Community Outreach –

Talent Show/ Spaghetti Dinner – October 4th @5pm

To ensure we have enough food it was decided to sell tickets at \$10 to help offset the food cost. Included in the ticket price is spaghetti, salad, rolls, applesauce, drinks and dessert. The entertainment is free! We have some exciting acts signed up already and are working on more. You won't find a less expensive deal for dinner and a show anywhere! Contact Susan Krause for tickets.

SOUP SUNDAY November 2nd immediately following church



The Fellowship committee is meeting on November 1st to make soup for the shut-ins. Any soup not being delivered will be served at Soup Sunday, November 2nd immediately after church. We will be asking for volunteers to deliver the soup to the shut-ins. Please consider serving our congregation by volunteering.

November 2nd, bring soup or accompaniment to share for Fellowship Sunday!

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM yes, we know it's only October, but we are forming a committee to work on preparations for the Sunday School Program on December 21st. If you have any ideas, suggestions, or would like to serve on the committee please see Susan Krause or Sandra Matter.



Keeping the Simeon Spirit alive!