# The Simeon Spirit

# SIMEON UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH



April 2022

Pastor Gregory Lindsey Church: (717) 365-3139

Celebrating Our Faith

PO Box 478 Gratz, PA 17030

# <u>Pastor's Message – Empty Stage or Empty Tomb</u>

In his book, "There I Go Again", Steven Moseley tells about Anna Pavlova, who was a Russian ballet superstar of the early 1900s. Ms. Pavlova had been celebrated as the greatest ballerina of all time. Her most memorable performance, however, took place after her death.



Anna was to play the role she made famous, the "Dying Swan", at the Apollo Theatre in London. Tragically, she succumbed to pneumonia and died two days before the event.

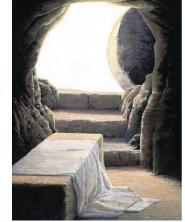
Still, on the appointed night, a crowd of her fans packed the Apollo Theatre. The orchestra began playing, the curtain rose, a spotlight flashed through the dark, and the entire audience rose to its feet. They all stood gazing at a pool of light floating around the stage, accompanied by the orchestral theme. As the light danced and the orchestra played, they remembered Anna Pavlova. In their hearts they could see her on stage, dressed in white with flashing dark eyes. And when the music stopped at last, they gave the departed Anna a thunderous ovation that echoed on and on in the night.

An empty stage with only a spotlight, but in their

hearts she was alive.

For some, this is the experience of Easter. The Lord was crucified, he died as all of us will one day die, and he was laid in a borrowed tomb, but in the hearts of his disciples he lives forever. An empty stage, that is the empty tomb.

Which is it? Are we immortal because there are those who remember and cherish the fact that once we walked this "vale of tears" or are we immortal because Christ has once and forever battered down the gates of death?



I look forward to seeing each of you in Easter morning as we commemorate the most important event in all of history. He is Risen. He has Risen Indeed.

Yours in the Living Christ,

Pastor Greg

#### **CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARCH, 2023**

**OLD BUSINESS:** Discussion held regarding the Flagstone and ground.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- 1. Worship and Music Bible study is going well.
- 2. <u>Parish Education</u>- 3 individuals for confirmation. Eggs have been received for the egg hunt. The dyeing of the eggs will take place on Good Friday, April 7, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. and the egg hunt will be on Saturday, April 8, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at the Gratz Park.
- 3. Stewardship and Evangelism NONE.
- 4. <u>Social Ministry</u> Food Bank had 2 new families in March. The Food Bank was able to help Doug and Tom Johns with Food after their house fire. Received a quarter of a steer and will soon be purchasing another quarter beef. Terry and Bob Snyder donated frozen meat to the food bank. Terry Snyder would like to have a food bank (bread, pastries, etc..) at the church twice a month. Discussion was held. Volunteers would be needed to assist. Motion made to gather more information made by Doris Flynn and seconded by Darlene Novinger. Approved. A donation was received from the Moose in Millersburg.
- 5. **Youth** Made cards for all shut-ins and they really enjoyed them.
- 6. <u>Church Property</u> The pipes in the kitchen have been fixed. Discussion was held regarding the furnace, as there was no heat. The furnace has been fixed. Discussion held regarding the curtains downstairs and their removal.
- 7. **Budget and Finance** Love offering for Doug and Tom Johns was mailed today, March 16.
- 8. Fellowship Meeting on Sunday, March 19, 2023 to plan events for the year.
- 9. Mutual Ministry NONE.

<u>New Business</u> – Received a mailing from Lifeline Pregnancy Care Center, regarding donations. Information will be provided to the congregation if anyone would like to donate.

<u>The Pastor's Time</u> – Doing a funeral on Friday, March 17, 2023. Visiting shut-ins.

**Open Discussion** – None.

**2023 GIVING** 

**2023 EXPENSES** 

\$27,450.44

\$27,781.57

Difference between YTD Giving & YTD Expenses \$-331.13 {For General Operating Fund}

# **PRAYER LIST:**

**Prayers requested for:** Lena Schwartz, Brian Hoover, Christy Barge, Carol Koppenhaver, Barb Klinger, Cathie Wilkinson, Tiffany Wilkinson, Clair & Vivian Engle, Jean Hess, David Hartman, Jim Neiswender, Kenneth Mace, Dorothy Lettich Martin, Steve Dagen, Rahn Erdman, Marie Lahr, Christy Warfel, Jeff Latsha, Bradyn Schadel, Cheryl Schaffner

Polk Apartments: Helen Michael, John Kissinger, Charles Schoffstall

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

### **April 2023**

April 2 – Buffington/Reed Funeral Home

April 9 – Willing Workers

**April 16** – Bellevue Bees

April 23 – Hoffman's Hatchery

April 30 -

We want to thank our faithful sponsors in continuing to help with this important ministry of of our church especially during these trying times. God bless you and be safe.

#### **DAILY DEVOTIONALS**

The Daily Devotionals for April-June, 2023 are available in the narthex. Pick yours up or have someone get them for you.

## THE FLOWER & BULLETIN SPONSOR CHARTS

The 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.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

# **APRIL**

Saturday, April 1- All Fool's Day

<u>Sunday April 2 – Palm Sunday Worship Service/Passion Sunday/Holy Communion</u>

<u>Thursday, April 6</u> – Maundy Thursday Service 7pm

Friday, April 7—Dying eggs 9a.m basement/Good Friday Service 7pm

Saturday, April 8-Food Bank 9-11a.m. /Egg Hunt 10a.m.- Gratz Park

<u>Sunday, April 9 – Easter Sunday Worship Service/Holy Communion</u>

Sunday, April 16 - Worship Service

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

Friday, April 21 - Newsletter Deadline

<u>Saturday, April 22 – Earth Day</u>

Sunday, April 23 - Worship Service/ Music Sunday

Wednesday, April 26 – Administrative Professionals Day

Sunday, April 30 - Worship Service

# **MAY**

Sunday, May 7 - Worship Service / Holy Communion

Saturday, May 13 - Food Bank Open, 9-11 a.m.

Sunday, May 14 - Worship Service/ Happy Mother's Day

Thursday, May 18 - Council Meeting 7 p.m.

Friday, May 19 - Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, May 21 - Worship Service

Sunday, May 28 - Pentecost Worship Service/ Holy Communion

Monday, May 29 – *Memorial Day* 

# \*\*\*\*\*ATTENTION ALL COMMITTEE'S\*\*\*\*\*

Please schedule your reorganization meeting and fill out a reorganization report that is in the conference room and return it to the office as soon as possible.

# **SERVING IN APRIL & MAY**

APRIL 2, 2023 PALM/PASSION SUNDAY w/ HOLY COMMUNION	GREETER: Doris Flynn READER: Virginia Moore USHER: Dave Strohecker GLASSES: Brenda Flynn	ALTAR: Dennis Barge
APRIL 6, 2023 MAUNDY THURSDAY w/ HOLY COMMUNION	GREETER: Matt Ferster READER: John Novinger USHER: Lynn Schadle GLASSES: Sharon Erdman	ALTAR: John Novinger
APRIL 7, 2023 GOOD FRIDAY	GREETER: John Novinger	
APRIL 9, 2023 EASTER SUNDAY w/ HOLY COMMUNION	GREETER: Mike Hartman READER: Doris Flynn USHER: Mike Hartman GLASSES: Linda Koppenhaver	ALTAR: Lynn Schadle & Doris Flynn
APRIL 16, 2023 2 <sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER	GREETER: Leah Schade READER: Cameron Smeltz	
APRIL 23, 2023 3 <sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER	GREETER: Remington Schlegel READER: Lynn Schadle	
APRIL 30, 2023 4 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER	GREETER: Cameron Smeltz READER: Sharon Erdman	
MAY 1, 2023 5 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER w/ HOLY COMMUNION	GREETER: Susan Krause READER: Jean Perkins USHER: Matt Ferster GLASSES: Tracy Bixler	ALTAR: Sharon Erdman
MAY 14, 2023 6 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER	GREETER: Jenny Sracic READER: Samantha Boyer	
MAY 21, 2023 7 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER	GREETER: Anna Coleman READER: Becky Hoover	
MAY 1, 2023 DAY OF PENTECOST w/ HOLY COMMUNION	GREETER: Darlene Novinger READER: Mike Hartman USHER: Dave Strohecker GLASSES: Susan Krause	ALTAR: Dennis Barge & John Novinger









The Youth Group met to make handmade cards to send to the shut-ins. Jean reported that she's getting positive feedback from the recipients. Keeping the Simeon Spirit alive!













# Mark your calendars! September 10, 2023

The annual church picnic has been moved to the Gratz Park on the date above. We will be looking for some volunteers to help transport those shut-ins wishing to attend. Fun and games are in the works! We're holding a meeting on March 19<sup>th</sup> after church to work on this year's calendar of events. Stay tuned for updates.

# Chefs Corner

### Easy Rhubarb Dessert

4 cup Chopped Rhubarb 1 cup water

1(3oz.) box strawberry Jello 1 cup sugar 1/3 cup butter (melted) 1 white cake mix

Pre-heat oven to 350\*. Place rhubarb in a 9x13 cake pan. Next sprinkle sugar over top, then sprinkle the Jello, and then the cake mix. Pour water and then melted butter over top. Bake for 45-60 min.



#### Chicken Supreme

6 cups diced chicken ½ cup diced onion
2 cup bread crumbs 3 cup chicken broth
1 cup minute rice 4 eggs (beaten)

1 tsp. salt & Pepper each 2 cans mushroom soup

4 cups shredded cheddar cheese

Mix all ingredients together. If it is too dry add more broth. Pour into a 9x13 inch pan and bake at 350\* for 1 hour.

## **Grandmas Easter Cake**

4cups Flour 3 sticks of Butter softened

4tsp baking soda3 cups sugar½ tsp salt12 Egg whites4tsp vanilla1½ cups milk

Separate egg whites and beat till stiff and set aside. Cream butter & sugar till smooth and creamy. Sift dry ingredients and slowly add to butter mixer alternating with milk. After all dry ingredients and milk is incorporated mix on medium HI for 2 min. take the egg whites that you already have beaten and fold into batter by hand careful not to over mix. Pour into a greased or sprayed 9x13 inch cake pan. Bake at 350\* for 35 minutes or till a toothpick comes out clean. Cool cake completely top with frosting. Take 1½ cups of coconut and add 3 drops of green food coloring and mix till coated. Sprinkle on top of frosted cake and top with your favorite jellybeans.

# **Frosting**

1 stick butter 2tbsp vanilla

½ cup shortening 4 cups powdered sugar

4tbsp milk

Cream butter, shortening and vanilla till smooth, slowly add powdered sugar and milk and beat on hi till smooth and fluffy

# Music Notes





#### In The Garden 1912

The art of meditating on Scripture involves using one's imagination. Instead of simply reading a passage, we must read it, close our eyes, and visualize the scene, perhaps even putting ourselves in the picture. That's what the author of this hymn did.

C. Austin Miles was a pharmacist who began writing gospel songs and eventually became an editor of hymnals and songbooks, as well as a popular music director at camp meetings, conventions, and churches. His hobby was photography, and he found his darkroom perfect for developing, not just his photographs, but his devotional life. In its privacy and strange blue glow, Miles could read his bible in total privacy.

One day in March, 1912, while waiting for some film to develop, he opened the Bible to his favorite chapter, John 20, the story of the first Easter. Miles later said: "As I read it that day, I seemed to be part of the scene... My hands were resting on the Bible while I stared at the light blue wall. As the light faded, I seemed to be standing at the entrance of a garden, looking down a gently winding path, shaded by olive branches. A woman in white, with head bowed, hands clasping her throat as if to choke back her sobs, walked slowly into the shadows. It was Mary. As she came to the tomb, upon which she placed her hand, she bent over to look in and hurried away. John, in flowing robe, appeared, looking at the tomb; then came Peter, who entered the tomb, followed slowly by John.

As they departed, Mary reappeared, leaning her head upon her arm at the tomb. She wept.

Turning herself, she saw Jesus standing; so, did I. I knew it was He. She knelt before him, with arms outstretched and looking into his face, cried, 'Rabboni!'

"I awakened in full light, gripping my Bible, with muscles tense and nerves vibrating. Under the inspiration of this vision I wrote as quickly as the words would be formed the poem exactly as it has since appeared. That same evening I wrote the music."

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In addition to "In the Garden" Austin Miles is the author of several other gospel songs, including "A New Name in Glory," "Dwelling in Beulah Land," and "If Jesus Goes with Me I'll Go Anywhere."