

The Simeon Spirit

SIMEON UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

January 2023

Celebrating Our Faith

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Pastor's Message – Wisemen from the East

Last Friday, January 6, was The Epiphany of Our Lord. The date for the Epiphany is set as the twelfth eve after Christmas. The carol 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' is based on the observance of the days of Christmas up to Epiphany. The name for the festival came from the ancient Greek word 'epiphanea', which means manifestation. It is an observance of the day the Christ child was revealed to the non-Jewish world.

There is a beautiful old tradition about the star in the East. The story says that when the star had finished its task of directing the wisemen to the baby, it fell from the sky and dropped down into the city well of Bethlehem. According to some legend, that star is there to this day, and can sometimes still be seen by those whose hearts are pure and faithful. It's a lovely story. Sounds like a good tale for a children's book.

Matthew in the second chapter of his gospel tells us that the men who came seeking the child were "magi". It is a Persian word for those who were experts in astrology. They study the movement of the stars and planets which were believed to foretell future events. We get the words magic and magician from this word.

There are other legends about this story of the wisemen from the east. For instance, how many wisemen were there? In the old days in the east, they believed that there were 12 men who made the journey, but now we have settled on perhaps 3, because of the gifts which were given. One old legend even tells us the names of the three. Melchior who gave the baby the gift of gold. Gold was a gift befitting for a king. There was Casper who presented the gift of frankincense to the baby. Frankincense was burned in the temple to honor God. An appropriate gift for the Son of God. Finally, Balthasar who presented the gift of myrrh. Myrrh was used to anoint a body for burial. Thus, so was the fate of the sacrificed Son of Man.

Whatever the details, it is important to remember that Epiphany tells us that Jesus came to save all people. Folks like us. So as the favorite carol "We Three Kings" proclaims,

Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice!
Heaven sings, 'Alleluia!'
'Alleluia!' the Earth replies.

Yours in the newborn babe,

Pastor Greg

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FROM December, 2022

The December Meeting Was Canceled Due to Weather

2022 GIVING

\$112,705.23

2022 EXPENSES

\$126,440.11

Difference between YTD Giving & YTD Expenses (\$ -13,734.88)

{For General Operating Fund}

INSTALLATION OF NEW CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Members elected to Church Council are: *Susan Krause, Tracy Bixler & Lynn Schadle.*
Cemetery Board: Tim Daniel & John Hoffman. Installation took place, Sunday, January 8st, and there was a reorganizational meeting after worship service to elect officers, etc.

COVERED DISH DINNER

A covered dish dinner for the whole congregation will be held following worship on Sunday, January 8th. A planning session for all Church Council members and committee members will take place following the dinner. Come and enjoy good food and fellowship. Committee members will meet afterward to plan for the upcoming year.

2023 CALENDARS ARE AVAILABLE

The 2023 calendars have also been placed in the narthex. Again, ask someone to see that you get them, if you feel unsafe to come to church. God is with you, wherever you are, and He will see us through this pandemic. Have faith!!

THE 2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES

are now in the narthex. Please pick up for you, your family, and anyone else you might see.

“VOICE OF SIMEON” RADIO MINISTRY SPONSORS

January 2023

January 1 – Buffington/Reed Funeral Home

January 8– Willing Workers

January 15 – James A. Reed Funeral Home

January 22 –

January 29 -

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

THE NEW FLOWER & BULLETIN SPONSOR 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.

DAILY DEVOTIONALS

The Daily Devotionals for January-March, 2023 are also available in the narthex. Pick yours up, or have someone get them for you if you don't feel okay to come to church.

Prayers requested for: Celin Sitlinger, Barb Klinger, Tim Ferster, Cathie Wilkinson, Tiffany Wilkinson, Clair & Vivian Engle, Jean Hess, David Hartman, Jim Neiswender, Kenneth Mace, Steve Dagen, Dan & Susan Ferster, Rahn Erdman, Marie Lahr, Christy Warfel

Polk Apartments: Helen Michael, John Kissinger, Charles Schoffstall

Mt. Carmel Nursing & Rehab: Ruby Leitzel, **Premier at Susquehanna Village:** Bonnie Miller



Fellowship

A group of volunteers manned a food stand at the Community Center for their annual Bingo games. The food was prepared by our church members, and it was reported the profits were about \$850. This was just one example of how our church members selflessly donate their time and resources to our fundraising efforts. (There were a lot more volunteers, but these are the pictures I received) Thanks to all who helped).



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TEA

The tea party was a huge success with guests requesting a larger venue so they could bring more friends next year. The total profits exceeded \$2000 and is proof that when we all pull together great things can be accomplished. There are so many people to thank I can't name them all, from the cooks, servers, picture takers, performers, people who donated to the silent auction, and attendees. So a **BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE** who participated.





AND NOW THE UNTOLD STORY
while the women were slaving away making the tea party a huge success, **SOME** of the men in the congregation paid a visit to Santa at Cabela's.

HOUSE TOUR NEWS

We don't have a final tally of the house tour profits but an estimate is that we sold 120 tickets. It was an amazing event and we reconnected with some old friends and made some new ones. The weather was great, and we heard a lot of positive feedback from all who were able to tour. Thanks to the hosts opening their homes for this great fundraiser:

- Kylie & Bryan Bender
- Diane & Lynn Schadle
- Gratz Historical Society
- Ruth & Celin Sitlinger
- Dean Morgan
- Chasity & Tyler Yanoscak
- Paula & Troy Schadel
- Ange Sitlinger
- Shirley Welker
- Susan & Dennis Krause
- Simeon United Lutheran Church

Upper Dauphin FFA and AG Program News

Once again, our youths are outstanding! "We are pleased to recognize our 2023 Keystone (State) FFA Degree Recipients & Freshman FFA Jacket Award Recipients". The 6 FFA members receiving their Keystone have earned/productively invested \$1,000 or worked 300 unpaid hours in their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) programs, documented 25 hours of Community Service, and been an active part of the FFA chapter through planning and conducting events.



They will receive their degrees and jackets at the 107th Pennsylvania Farm Show on Monday, January 9th!

Simeon Spotlight on Tyler Murray, Sadie Sitlinger and Cale Welker for their efforts and congratulations to all who qualified.

Annual Christmas Program

Several people mentioned how great the program was and we heard 3 Wise Women (Doris Flynn, Becky Hoover, Jennie Sracic) appeared along with our Simeon Star (Matthew Ferster).





We had a new vocal group (Andrew Romberger, Lynn Schade and Doris Flynn) who may be preparing for an album release--just saying



Assorted pictures from the plays- credit to Tracy Bixler and Becky Hoover for being our photographers.





The Grand Finale

Our Christmas Hippopotamus (portrayed by Cameron Smeltz). Thanks to the choir for their rousing rendition of "I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas!"

Music Notes



1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are, Bear - ing gifts we trav - erse a - far
2. Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, Gold I bring to crown Him a - gain,
3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I, In - cense owns a De - i - ty nigh;
4. Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume Breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;
5. Glo - rious now be - hold Him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice;

Field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, Fol - low - ing yon - der star.
King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er O - ver us all to reign.
Prayer and prais - ing, all men rais - ing, Wor - ship Him, God on high.
Sor - row - ing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, Sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Peals through the earth and skies.

REFRAIN *a tempo*
O star of won - der, star of night, Star with roy - al beau - ty bright,
West - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, Guide us to thy per - fect light.

We Three Kings of Orient Are 1857

Strange but true: A visit from St. Nicholas paved the way for “We Three Kings.” It happened like this. After the war of 1812, Anglicans in America decided to establish their own seminary for training Episcopalian Ministers. The proposal was first made in 1814; and in 1817, the Episcopalian General Convention voted to locate the school in New York City. But where in New York?

Clement Clarke Moore, son of New York’s Episcopalian Bishop, was an up-and-coming land developer. He had recently become well-known because of a poem he had written, which began:

*’Twas the night before Christmas, when all thought
the house not a creature was stirring, not even a
mouse....*

The popularity of his poem (reportedly written following a sleigh ride home from Greenwich Village) made his name a household word. The fame and increased income made him a more generous and sought-after layman.

Moore owned a large estate in the undeveloped northern regions of Manhattan. He referred to it as “a quiet, rural retreat on the picturesque banks of the Hudson.” Hearing that the Episcopalians needed land for their seminary, he offered a portion of his estate, and thus was born General Theological Seminary. Moore, also a linguist and Hebrew scholar, became one of General’s first professors, teaching biblical languages.

Some years later, a reporter named John H. Hopkins, Jr., enrolled in this seminary. Born in Pittsburgh, Hopkins had matriculated at the University of Vermont, before moving to New York to pursue legal studies. But fell in love with the Lord’s work, enrolled in General, and graduated from seminary in 1850. In 1855, he was hired as the school’s first instructor of church music.

Hopkins wrote “We Three King” as part of a Christmas pageant production by General Theological Seminary in 1857. In 1863 it was published in his *Carols, Hymns, and Songs*. This hymnal went through three editions by 1882, establishing Hopkins as a leader in Episcopalian hymnody. He wrote other hymn, but most have fallen into obscurity. “We Three Kings” was his crowning achievement, made possible, in a way, through the generosity of another poet whose most famous work ends:

*But I heard him exclaim, ‘ere he drove out of sight,
Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!*

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

Chefs Corner



Hungarian Goulash

2 lb. stew meat (cut into 1 in. cubes)	2 tsp. salt
1 large onion (sliced)	1 Tbsp. brown sugar
2 tsp paprika	½ tsp. dry mustard
1 clove garlic	1 cup water
½ cup ketchup	2 Tbsp. Worcestershire
¼ cup flour	

Place meat in cooking pot and cover with onion. Combine garlic, ketchup, Worcestershire, sugar, salt paprika, and mustard. Add the water and pour over meat. Cover and cook on low for 9-10 hours. Turn on high. Dissolve flour in small amount of water and stir into meat mixture. Cook on high for 10 – 15 min. or until slightly thickened. Serve over noodles or rice.

Peanut Butter Bars

6 oz. graham cracker crumbs	1 stick butter
3½ cups powdered sugar	12 oz. chocolate chips
½ stick butter	2 cups peanut butter

Mix together graham crumbs and powdered sugar. Melt peanut butter & 1 stick butter together. Add to graham mixture and mix well. Press onto cookie sheet (I use a rolling pin to make it even). Melt together in microwave chocolate chips and ½ stick butter and spread over first layer. Cool and cut into bars.

Taco Dip

8oz. cream cheese	½ head of lettuce (cut into small pieces)
8oz. sour cream	2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
2Tbsp. milk	1 tomato (chopped fine)
2Tbsp lemon juice	taco sauce or salsa
1lb. ground beef	1 pk. Taco seasoning

In a pan cook ground beef till done and add taco seasoning. Mix together cream cheese, sour cream, milk, and lemon juice. Spread mixture in a 9x13 in pan. Sprinkle lettuce and tomato over the top. Then top with ground beef mix and cheese. Drizzle taco sauce or salsa over top before serving. Serve with taco chips.

Cucumber Ranch Tea Sandwiches

8oz. cream cheese	1 Tbsp. lemon juice
1 pkg. dry ranch dressing	bread of your choice
Cucumbers sliced	

Mix cream cheese, lemon juice, and ranch dressing together until creamy and spread on bread. Top with sliced cucumbers.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

JANUARY

Sunday Jan. 1- Worship Service/ Holy Communion/ Holy Name of Jesus/

Happy New Year!! / Installation of new council members and cemetery board members;
Short meeting after worship to elect new officers, etc.

Friday, Jan. 6 - EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

Sunday, Jan. 8 – Worship Service/ Baptism of the Lord. *Fellowship Time with a covered dish after worship in Social Hall; Committee Reorganization and Goal Setting afterward.*

Wednesday, Jan. 11 - Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 14 - Food Bank Open, 9 -11 a.m.

Sunday, Jan. 15 - Worship Service

Monday, Jan. 16 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Wednesday, Jan. 18 - Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 19 - Council Meeting 7 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 20 - Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, Jan. 22 - Worship Service

Sunday, Jan. 29 - Worship Service / Youth Sunday

FEBRUARY

Thursday, Feb. 2 – Groundhog Day

Sunday, Feb. 5 - Worship Service/ Holy Communion

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

Sunday, Feb. 12 - Worship Service/ **Lincoln's Birthday**

Tuesday, Feb. 14 - Happy Valentine's Day

Thursday, Feb. 16 - Council Meeting 7 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 17 - Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, Feb. 19 - Worship Service

Wednesday, Feb. 22 – Ash Wednesday Service 7p.m./ Washington Birthday

Sunday, Feb. 26 -_Worship Service/ First Sunday in Lent



Fellowship Committee Mission Statement - These members are responsible for promoting a Christian and friendly spirit among the members and friends of the congregation through the concepts of **Faith, Friendship, Family, and Food**. The Committee promotes the 4 F's through various events held throughout the year and helps prepares the food for the events. They spearhead setup, tear down and clean up. **Members:**

Edna Ferster	Susan Krause -Co-Chair	Lisa Perkins
Mary Sue Ferster	Sandra Matter- Co-Chair	
Brenda Flynn	Virginia Moore	
Doris Flynn	Darlene Novinger	
Becky Hoover	Jean Perkins	

The committee has *temporarily suspended* after church fellowship and will be trying a new approach in 2023. Stay tuned for updates as we work out the details. As usual, membership is open to anyone willing to help. It doesn't matter if you can't make all the events – any help welcome.

SERVING IN JANUARY & FEBRUARY

JANUARY

JANUARY 1, 2023
HOLY NAME OF
JESUS w/ *HOLY*
COMMUNION

GREETER: John Novinger
READER: Virginia Moore
USHER: Lynn Schadle
GLASSES: Tracy Bixler
ALTAR: Dennis Barge

JANUARY 8, 2023
BAPTISM OF THE
LORD

GREETER: Virginia Moore
READER: Doris Flynn

JANUARY 15, 2023
2ND SUNDAY AFTER
EPIPHANY

GREETER: Virginia Moore
READER: Ashley Welker

JANUARY 22, 2023
3RD SUNDAY AFTER
EPIPHANY

GREETER: Doris Flynn
READER: Doris Flynn

JANUARY 29, 2023
4TH SUNDAY AFTER
EPIPHANY

GREETER: Matt Ferster
READER: Cameron Smeltz

FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 5, 2023
5TH SUNDAY AFTER
EPIPHANY/ HOLY
COMMUNION

GREETER: John Novinger
READER: Lynn Schadle
USHER: Mike Hartman
GLASSES: Jenny Sracic
ALTAR: Doris Flynn

FEBRUARY 12, 2023
6TH SUNDAY AFTER
EPIPHANY

GREETER: Leah Schade
READER: Sharon Erdman

FEBRUARY 19, 2023
7TH SUNDAY AFTER
EPIPHANY

GREETER: Mike Hartman
READER: Jean Perkins

FEBRUARY 22, 2023
ASH WEDNESDAY

GREETER:
READER:

FEBRUARY 26, 2023
1ST SUNDAY OF
LENT

GREETER: Remington Schlegel
READER: Mike Hartman